JENNESS WALL

Election day lottery continues

Peres names campaign team

LIAT COLLINS

THE election day lottery continued yesterday with several suggested dates coming up in the Knesset, but the final announcement by Prime Minister Shimon Peres expected at the Labor faction meeting was not to be.

The most favored date appears to be May 20, although Peres said he still prefers May 14. The Likud and religious parties would be happier with either May 28 or June 4.

"In my opinion, the shorter the re-election, period, the better," Peres said. "Fewer days means less expenditure and more benefits for the state and democracy."

May 20 date if the religious parties preferred. "Ninety days is enough to say everything that needs to be said and even what doesn't need to

The morning meeting between Labor and Likud-Tsomet on the election date ended with a screaming match, after which Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen stormed out to tell waiting reporters: "It's all blown up. The Likud is just using gimmicks and making a show of everything."

MK Michael Eitan (Likud) passed his own judgment: "If only they'd been this tough in the negotiations with the PLO, it would have been better for the country."

The religious parties in the morning insisted on the June 4, but by afternoon some religious MKs said they would be willing to compromise on May 20.
Peres dexied that May 14, three

days before Jerusalem Day, was an attempt at preventing the Likud-Tsomet from conducting a massive publicity campaign on a

"I'm not impressed by empty rhetoric," he said, listing a large number of Laborites involved in the reunification of Jerusalem from Levy Eshkol to Yitzhak Rabin and Teddy Kollek. "Not exact-

ly a Likud team." Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu joked in his faction meeting: We could hold the elections tomorrow. I don't think they'd have time to come down off the Golan Heights and redivide Jerusalem by then. Or create a Palestinian

(Continued on Page 2)



Tuesday, Pebraiary 20 Gerald Schroeder The Ble Bang Dian This week in sport -

Radio Jerusalem, 25 Rehov Shachrai, erusalem 91160, Fax. 02-429222





Rescue workers examine the wreckage of the school bus yesterday.

has not done enough on this sub-ject, even though it has done much

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar blamed the legislators,

saying the Knesset was not help-

ing his ministry by opposing legis-

lation regarding truck drivers and

transport despite the high per-

centage of accidents involving

to improve the roads."

Three children killed, 36 injured as truck slams into school bus

THREE children were killed and 36 injured when a tractor trailer jackknifed into a bus carrying pupils to the regional elementary school at Kibbutz Lavi in the Galilee yesterday morning.

Two children were reported in serious condition with head injured were transferred by heliwounds and were in intensive care at Haifa's Rambam Hospital last might. The bus driver was also

Those killed were Perah Moyal. of Yavniel; Eliron Tuito, 9 of 8, of Yavniel; Eliron Tuno, you Kfar Oved; and Linor Hajbi, 7, also of Kfar Oved. They were buried yesterday afternoon.

The driver of the tractor trailer was identified as a 25-year-old resident of a Galilee village who had already committed 17 serious traffic offenses, Israel Radio reported last night. In the past two years, he was reportedly fined twice for

The accident occurred shortly after 7 a.m. when the trailer apparently swerved away from the truck pulling it, slicing into the side of the oncoming bus, a police spokesman said. He said police were investigating whether the accident, which occurred as the bus was approaching the Golani junction, was the result of human error or a

technical fault. A passing bus collected those children who were conscious and took them to Poriya Hospital in Tiberias, eyewitnesses said. The remaining victims waited for am-

instantly and a third died on arrival at Poriya Hospital, a hospital spokesman said. By nightfall, 30 lightly injured children were discharged. Three who were seriously copter to Rambam Hospital, and the remainder were reported in moderate to fair condition at

"I was sitting at the back of the bus and talking with a triend when there was a tremendous bang and the bus lurched back," Adi Mamo, 8, told Educational TV. "We couldn't even talk. We climbed out through the windows and I started looking for my sister," who

was injured in the legs.
"Then I saw the back of my friend Perah, on the ground outside. This upset me terribly. I also saw the head of a boy. I felt horrible. I was very worried about Perah and about Avi Coben, whom I saw was injured."

"After the bang, it was very quiet and then everyone went wild trying to get out," said Shiran Coben, the sister of Avi. 12, who is one of those in serious condition. "There was blood everywhere, and bits of broken glass. I started asking where Avi was, and someone told me he was okay. Later

they said he had hurt his head." At the school, third-grader Avital Ronen told her teacher: "I can't sit alone." Avital had shared a desk with Perah. "I wrote a letter bulances to be dispatched. Two of the children were killed to Perah's family. I told them I

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE first Israeli tour to Yemen is due to leave tomorrow under the

travel by land to Amman, where the company has been promised that the

group will obtain Yemeni visas. From there, they are to fly by Royal

The group of about 20, all Israelis who also bold foreign passports, is to

The cost of the tour, which is to last nine days, is \$2,060. According to a

standard disclaimer issued by the company, it undertakes to return the

entire fee if the tour is canceled before it leaves Israel. If the group fails to obtain visas in Amman or is denied entry in Yemen, the company promises to refund the money, less expenses incurred to that point.

want her to come back, but I know she can't. I feel so sad." Avital said later in an interview on Education-

Since the beginning of this year, 65 people have been killed on the

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who attended the funereducational psychologists to be sent immediately to the school where the children studied.

Classes were canceled and the children were given activities aimed at allowing them to express their fears. Psychologists were also sent to the homes of those killed and injured.

Rubinstein also ordered an investigation into the safety precautions taken by school buses in rural areas. He appealed to employers of professional drivers, particularly those driving heavy vehicles, to make sure they are fit to drive. "Road accidents are claiming more and more lives." Rubinstein said later.

Liat Collins adds: Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss opened yesterday's plenum session expressing his condolences to the families and hopes for the speedy recovery of the victims.

Education Committee Chairwoman Dalia Itzik (Labor) said she felt the words are worthless. This House has done nothing to deal with this problem and this government - my government -

Barak, who had sought to be put

in charge of the Labor informa-tion drive. That job, however, went to Interior Minister Haim

Barak was also told that should Peres be elected, he will

retain the Defense portfolio.

But Barak played the good los-

er, saying be felt "honored to be asked to manage the prime min-

ister's campaign. I consider it a

great compliment for someone

He said he would be glad to

(Continued on Page 2)

as new to politics as myself."

Foreign leaders may be asked to stay away till after elections

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Foreign Ministry is weighing whether to ask foreign dignitaries to delay their trips bere until after the elections to avoid a diplomatic confrontation over visits to Orient House, Foreign Ministry officials indicated yesterday.

It is possible that even in the absence of an explicit Foreign Ministry appeal, foreign offi-cials would decide not to visit during the election campaign. should Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal ban visits to Orient House.

The cancellations, should they occur, would mark the first diplomatic casualty of the partisan debate, following the Likud's allegation earlier this week that Prime Minister Shimon Peres would partition Jerusalem if elected. Peres has termed the charge "incite-ment" and "ebaraeter and

assassination." After the Likud allegation, Shahal sent a letter to Foreign Minister Ehud Barak urging him to cooperate in ensuring that visiting foreign ministers do not stop at Orient House. His aides said the move was needed so Orient House would not become a Palestinian Authority mini-foreign ministry.

Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu, addressing his Knesset fac-tion, greeted the announcement with: "Good morning Shahal! Now you've woken up?

He said the Likud has been demanding for three years that the government close Orient House, only to be told it is a "cultural

He called on the coalition to prove it is serious about the ban by voting in favor of the bill by Knesset Interior Committee chairman Yehosbua Matza demanding the closure of Orient House.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) described Shahal's announcement as "throwing out the baby, the peace process, with the bathwater, the Likud's propaganda. It is clear to all that the meaning of permanent [status] talks' is that Jerusalem's future will come up for

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She called on the government to restrain Shahal, "who is turning the future of Jerusalem into his own primary election campaign

Chazan said the Foreign Ministry bas expressed its opposition to the meetings, but Shahal's deci-sion to physically stop them "will cause tremendous international barm to Jerusalem's status."

Barak asked Peres to hold consultations on the issue between the two of them and Shahal, Foreign Ministry officials said.

"We are waiting for the consultations of the three now," a senior ministry official said. "If they decide to follow Shahal and prevent foreign ministers from val.ing Orient House, there were those at

(Continued on Page 2)

Peres: Likud committing character assassination campaign for prime minister. This was a consolation prize for

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres complained yesterday that the Likud is employing character assassination against him by raising the issue of Jerusalem.

The Likud launched its election campaign in an ugly fashion," Peres said. "They are committing character assassination, and not for the first time. This whole campaign, with the slogan of 'Peres will divide Jerusalem, is character assassination ... It offends me. It burts me. I am human, too."

Peres was speaking to the coalition's election team before it embarked on consultations with the opposition. He instructed the group to push for May 14 elections, and compromise on May 20 only if the religious parties would vote for it.

"There is no point in prolong-

auspices of Neot Hakikar-Geographical Tours.

Jordanian Airlines to Sanaa, the Yemeni capital.

SARAH HONIG

ing this process and postponing elections for even one unnecessary day, considering that the Likud has already started its of-fensive," Peres said. "What's the point of dragging this campaign for four or five months? Onr target is the earliest possible date. We won't quibble if the haredim will support May 20, but if they won't, it will be

But a big question mark sur-rounds the May 14 date. Danisb Queen Margrethe is due to visit between May 12 and 14, following a state visit to Jordan and a few days of rest in Akaba. She is unlikely to reschedule.

Peres also announced that be is appointing Foreign Minister Ehud Barak to run his personal

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Peres dismisses charge he will redivide capital

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres yesterday dismissed the Likud-Tsomet electoral theme that he would redivide Jerusalem with one word: "chizbat," an old Palmah term for a myth or bluff.

Speaking at the weekly Labor Knesset faction meeting, he recalled Likud threats that Labor would give up the entire Golan Heights, and said that that has not happened and neither would Jerusalem be redivided.

Peres described the campaign as "character assassination" and "a deviation from both the truth and political norms.

He repeated that he knows of no negotiations on Jerusalem being carried out on the government's behalf. "No one carried ont negotiations on redividing Jerusalem either on the government's behalf or mine, or with the government's knowledge or mine. Do you have any reason to think there is a word of truth in it? It's a completely unfounded lie," Peres

Binyamin Netanyahu, at the Likud faction meeting, countered: "Peres always denies everything. Everything's a chizbat. The Orient House is a chizbat, 11 PLO offices in Jerusalem are a chizbat; 200 men of Jibril Rajouh's [PA Protec-

tive Security] in Jerusalem is a chizbat. He just denies and denies everything. I give his statements as much credibility as I gave them when he denied sending the letter he sent on the existence of PLO institutions in Jerusalem, or when he denied having contacts with the PLO, when he had already agreed on the Oslo accord with them."

Netanyahu also accused Labor of labeling every statement by the opposition as seditious. "Pretty soon they'll tell us that if we say they'll leave the Golan Heights or the Jordan Valley, we're guilty of incitement. That's the real incitement, barring all legitimate criti-

Likud campaign head Limor Livnat accused Labor of "panickmg" and also attacked the media for unfair bias. She warned the party might take legal steps to ensure the guidelines on equal exposure on state television he

The Meretz Knesset faction, at its weekly meeting, accepted a proposal by faction leader Ran Cohen opposing "all building over the Green Line and a boycott of coalition meetings if Labor continues to support the construction of 6,300 housing units for haredim over the Green Line.

40,000 multiple-party registrants reported

EVELYN GORDON

ALMOST 40,000 people have registered for more than one party, out of some 676,000 who enlisted for a party at all, registrar Ze'ev Boneh announced yesterday.

These figures are not complete, because some parties have not yet submitted their lists, and other lists could not be checked because of technical errors. However, Boneh decided to check now whatever he could in order to finish in time for

the upcoming primaries. By law, Boneh must notify any-one found on more than one list, and that person then has 10 days to decide to which party he really wants to be affiliated. If he does not choose, his name is removed

from both lists. Five parties did not submit their lists at all: Hadash; the Democratic Arab Party; Yemin Yisrael; a Russian immigrant party called Aliya (not to be confused with Natan Sharausky's new immigrant party); and Degel Hatorah. In addition, the Citizens Rights Movement's entire list of 5,132 members was submitted in an uncheckable form, and some 6,600 names submitted by the other 10 parties also proved uncheckable for technical

Of the 716,753 names that could be checked, however, the registrar found that 38,323 had registered for two parties. Another 1,262 registered for three parties, and 13

people signed up for four parties. By far the highest percentage of dual registries occurred in Tsomet and Yiud. Thirty percent of Tsomet's 8,400 members double-registered, and 35 percent of Yiud's 3.600 members did so.

The two major parties both came out relatively clean in percentage terms: Only 8 percent (22,237) of Labor's 277,000 members double-registered, and 12 percent (34,581) of the Likud's 290.000 members did so. Agudat Yisrael took the prize, however, with only 2 percent of its 164 mem-

The Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, the Director General. and ministry employees

mourn the passing of

RONALD G. S. HANRECK

a former employee of the ministry,

and extend condolences to his family

The staff and board of MELITZ

mourn the passing of a devoted friend and supporter

RHODA GOLDMAN 5"

of San Francisco

and extend their condolences to Richard, John, Susan, Doug and their families.

Her contribution to the Jewish people, to Israel and to the ecology of the world has made it a better place for all of us. May the memory of her meny good deeds serve as a solace.

Mordechai Bar-On Chairman of the Board President



The Israel Women's Network

extends its sincerest condolences to Richard Goldman

on the sudden death of his wife RHODA H. GOLDMAN

a true friend and supporter of women in Israel

RUTH WOHLFARTH 577

née Bler

beloved wife of Uri (Helimuth) mother and grandmother, passed away on February 18, 1996.

Shiva at 8, Rehov Habroshim, Nahlat Yehuda A, Rishon Lezion.

The Family



King Hussein accepts Id al-Fitr greetings from Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal (center) and diplomat Moshe

Israel, Jordan, PA near agreement on Allenby Bridge crossing

ISRAEL, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority are near agreement on turning the Allenby Bridge into the major Jordan River crossing point, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said after meeting here yesterday with King Hussein and Prime Minister

Abdel Karim Kahariti. Israeli diplomats said the agreement will pave the way for a multi-million dollar investment hy the Japanese government in expanding the bridge, a narrow, one-lane structure that only takes light vehicles and is off-limits

to most Israelis. Shahal said that Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and PA Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) "reached an understanding that will allow for the expansion of the Allenby Bridge." He said Hussein expressed his support for the

WHO won and who lost by rath-

ming through an earlier than an-

No one. The entire date-fixing

episode may be a top contender

for the title of most farcical

much-ado-about-nothing in re-

For weeks, even before the for-

mal announcement of early elec-

tions was made, senior Labor

politicians kept mentioning dif-ferent dates. Each day, the smart

money was on a different date,

and what made perfect sense one

day was dismissed on the next.

Shimon Peres and Likud leader

Binyamin Netanyahu agreed on

May 28, then because of religious

objections almost agreed again

on June 4. But Labor refused to

At one point, Prime Minister

cent Israeli politics.

ticipated date for the election?

The official reason for the visit was for Shahal to present Israel's good wishes to Jordan on the Id al-Fitr holiday which begins today. The royal helicopter was sent to the Allenby Bridge to pick np Shahal.

Shahal said peace talks with the Syrians were also discussed but he declined to give details, saying he first had to report to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Shahal met with Kabariti for over an bour, and they were then joined by Hussein for another 30 minutes of

The Israelis said the Allenby Bridge agreement, when finalized, was an important step

The Likud goaded Peres into a blunder

yield in the hope that it would stressed that it has the majority to

force the opposition into a pack- get its way in the Knesset. So had

AND HE IS SEEDED IN SARAH HONIG

age deal involving a change in the

rules just as the contest is to

political advertising from Chan-

nel 2. but allowing the electronic

media to show candidates on

news broadcasts right up to elec-

tion day. The June 4 date was

supposed to net the government a

lay its collective head on the exe-

cutioner's hiock. Labor erased

June 4 from its calendar. It

Failing to get the opposition to

huge exposure advantage.

Labor wants legislation barring

towards improving commerce and tourism with Jordan, because of the bridge's proximi-

ty to central Israel and Amman. When the expansion of the Alienby Bridge is complete, Israelis will no longer have to travel to the relatively remote crossing points near Eilat and Beit She'an, which are now the

only places to enter Jordan. Jordanian officials had given the green light for the agreement last week, when they informed Savir that Jordan would support expanding the bridge as long as the PA and Israel first reached an understanding on its operation, Israeli sources said.

Because of the Id al-Fitr holiday, the IDF has closed the Machpela Cave to Jewish worshipers. The closure began at 4 a.m. this morning, and will continue until 9 p.m.

ously mentioned.

too," Peres noted."

mandates at the latest a May 20-

election day, rather than the May

21. May 28, or June 4 - all previ-

en this campaign, we spare the

nation disaster, because the Li-

kud has decided to go to war

which will injure people physical-

ly. Whoever wants to prevent a

campaign with blood in the

streets must move for elections as

But the party line aside, it is

hard to see what concrete benefit

the coalition can derive from hav-

ing the elections only several days

before the date on which every-

one could have amicably agreed.

Labor's prospects will not be

greater, nor the Likud's lesser.

Lahor's gain lies in having

brought elections forward from

autumn to spring, while the Ra-

bin assassination is still fresher in

the voters' minds. A few days one

way or the other will not make

But if the Likud managed to

unsettle Labor with its opening

shot, it bodes ill for the state of

Labor's nerves and for the tone

of the entire campaign. By over-

reacting, Lahor managed to

needlessly vex the religious com-

munity, which Peres needs in the

separate prime ministerial race,

and it made Labor appear an ar-

rogant bully. For whatever it may

or may not mean in the long run,

the Likud easily goaded Peres

Basic Laws get first

reading despite PM's plea

THREE new constitutional bills

had their first reading in the

Knesset last night at the insis-

tence of Meretz, despite Prime

Minister Shimon Peres's request

to postpone discussion due to the

The new Basic Laws are: Legal

Rights; Freedom of Expression

and Association; and Social

Rights. Religious MKs fear they

would be used by the courts to

Knesset Law Committee chair-

man Dedi Zucker (Meretz) post-

poned the vote, after religious

MKs turned out in force to vote

overrule religious legislation.

religious parties' objections.

into a blunder.

the odds any more favorable.

soon as possible," he said.

Every day by which we short-

Palestinian policeman claims son held in Gaza without charges

JON IMMANUEL

THE father of a Palestinian policeman says his son has been held at an unknown location in Gaza for nine months without

charges.
Khaled Wahabeh is one of about seven Palestinians held for a long period somewhere in Gaza, unable to see family or a lawyer. Some six others have been in jail for close to 14 months, Palestinian human rights groups say. They are suspected of being agents of arch-terrorist Abu Nidal, who lanned attacks on the Palestinian Anthority and Israel. Wahabeh is apparently suspected of collaborating with

He was released in November after being declared innocent, and told his brothers he had heen interrogated about collaboration, severely tortured, and hospitalized during his imprisonment for broken bones in his legs and chest. He was rearrested two weeks later, and again

disappeared. Bassam Eid, the Palestinian human rights activist investigating the case, said that **Amnesty International Director** Pierre Sane, who visited the area recently, asked PA Chairman Yasser Arafat about Wahabeb's case. Arafat referred him to Khalil Zaaben, who heads the Palestinian Association of Human Rights, directly under PA control. Zaaben was unable to provide more information.

Eid has written directly to former US president Jimmy Carter requesting his direct intervention as 'Palestinian buman rīghts organizations continue to remain silent on these issues... Your Meretz Knesset faction head intervention will have an effect Ran Cohen explained why all this on future actions of the PNA towards its citizens."

In a separate case, an Israeli hnman rights activist says a Palestinian released after three weeks in an Israeli jail in September 1992 has been catatonic ever since. Hassan Zbeidi was released in a "severe catatonic state," according to Dr. Ruhama Marton, the head . of the association of Israeli-Palestinian physicians. Marton, who is treating him, claims Zbeidi was tortured by the General Security Service in jail and has sued the state. Five other prisoners held in the Tulkarın jail with Zbeidi at the : time claimed they had been

Beduin woman killed as car overturns

A 25-year-old Beduin woman, Shauk Kura'an, of Hura in the Negev, was killed yesterday when her husband's car overturned on a road in the Yatir Forest, south of Hebron. Three other passengers in the car were slightly injured.

The car overtuned after it first went off the road. Kura'an's busband succeeded in getting back on the road, but the car swerved left and fell into a three-meter deep ditch and overturned.

Attempts to revive Kura'an in a mobile intensive care unit on the way to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital failed.

The woman's husband had only received his driver's license a month ago.

SLA soldier killed

A South Lebanon Army soldier was killed and three others lightly wounded when their patrol was attacked by mortar and Sagger missile fire. Itim

Cabbie stabbed, robbed

A cabbie from Petali Tikva was stabbed and robbed by three Palestinian passengers he was taking to Kalkilya yesterday. One of them held a knife to his throat. while another threatened him with a pistol. The cabbie was lightly injured in the ear when he

against, while coalition members were conspicuously absent.

STAY AWAY

LOTTERY (Continued from Page 1) (Continued from Page 1) Although he could not give a date for the elections, Peres did announce his campaign staff, making sure every Labor minister up for re-election has some position in

campaign headquarters. At the top of the list is Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, in charge of the campaign; party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli, campaign secretary; Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, in charge of Peres's

personal campaign and surveys: Interior Minister Haim Ramon, information; Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, minorities; Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, organization; Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, election day activities; Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, business sector, Minister Yossi Beilin, immigrants; Health Minister Ephraim Snch. haredim; Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr, young members; Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, retirees: Justice Minister David Liba'i, platform; and faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen.

CHARACTER

(Continued from Page 1) continue as foreign minister, being sure that he will be called upon to advise Peres on defense and security matters.

Peres, meanwhile, is considering appeals from within Labor to limit the April's special session of the party convention to a ceremony only, and erase from the agenda any deliberations on the platform. Such deliberations could be harm the party's campaign, as among the proposals are the removal of objections to a Palestinian state, embracing the borough scheme for Jerusalcm, and adopting a softer tone on the commitment to Jordan Valley

tification to Israel.

today's meeting of top-level Foreign Ministry officials who suggested appealing to German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who is coming on March 3, and others to postpone their visits."

German Ambassador Franz Bertele said he is aware Shahal's decision could affect whether Kinkel will visit. "We are watching this situation very closely. We understand that it is a difficult time now. We shall see," he said.

Diplomats in Jerusalem were embarrassed over the prospect of calling for a delay in Kinkel's visit, as Germany has been a leading advocate of Israeli concerns with-

Faisal Husseini, the leading PLO figure in Jerusalcm, meanwhile, called on foreign officials to defy Israel and continue to visit Orient House. "I am asking them to continue their policy which they have been implementing all

stop at Orient House and pay a

Kinkel is not the only foreign minister due to visit. The foreign minister of Cyprus is also due A long-awaited visit by Turkish

President Sulcyman Demirel whose country is not a member of the EU - is also expected in the next few weeks, and Foreign Ministry officials hope this is not in jeopardy. Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller visited Orient

Another Foreign Ministry official predicted that such an appeal to Germany would he "likely, since this has all become so politically explosive now. The Likud is saying the hattle for Jerusalem has hegun. Lahor cannot take any chances.

in the European Union.

the time," he told Reuters.

The EU has insisted over the last several months that every visiting European foreign minister 'courtesy visit' on Husseini.

House last year without prior no-

previous governments, but the

custom is to choose the date of

Yet in this race, good will

seems to be lacking even before

the parties gather on the starting

line. Labor is mad because the

Likud kicked off its campaign by

claiming that Peres is planning to

redivide Jerusalem. Peres cried

foul and charged the the Likud is

out to get him. Even if it weren't

guilty of physical assassination, it

was practicing character assassi-

nation. "It hurts, I am human

election day by consensus.

The idea of keeping senior foreign official away during the election campaign might be strengthencd hy an incident during Wallen's visit. After meeting Peres, she said he did not ask her not to visit Orient House. Peres, standing alongside her, immediately denied having said so, and then publicly urged ber not to

visit Orient House. The practice of foreign ministers holding talks at the Orient House began shortly after the Palestinians opened the building as a headquarters for peace negotiators in the aftermath of the Madrid conference of 1991. Citing the fact that then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir rebuffed efforts to close Orient House, Yitzhak Rahin maintained the

Yet, Likud has argued that this should change in light of the Oslo accords, as the Palestinian Authority has a headquarters in

Shahal's initiative has led some in Labor to wonder privately whether it legitimizes earlier Likud claims that Orient House should be closed.

Liat Collins contributed to this

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Arthurstand Mrs. Harriet Lainer, President, Women's League for Israel, Mrs. Dorothy Lefter, Executive Director, for the Presidents

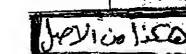
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Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban examines his ministry's new computerized guidelines yesterday.

ligh Court declines to rule on prisoner releases

THE High Court of Justice yesterday considered the question of whether the state, under the Oslo accords, is obligated to free all Palestinian prisoners who meet certain criteria, hut avoided a decision when the state said a prisoner who had petitioned against his noo-release would "almost certainly" be freed in the next round of releases

The petitioner, Majeed Halou; is serving 20 years for attempted murder. In his petition, he argued that he meets all the criteria set by the government, and therefore should have been freed. It is **EVELYN GORDON**

unfair that he is still in prison when others guilty of more serious crimes - such as the actual murder of Arabs - have been freed, he argued.

Government attorney Yehuda Sheffer responded that the interim agreement signed this fall obligated the government to release a certain oumber of prisoners immediately, an additional group prior to the Palestinian Authority elections, and a third group at some unspecified later date -

probably not for several months. There is no ohligation to release all prisoners meeting certain criteria, he said. The government's only obligation to the PA is to release the appropriate number at the appropriate times, which it

has; and its only obligation under

Israeli law is not to release those

who do not meet its criteria. In the end, Justices Gayriel Bach, Yitzhak Zamir, and Ya'acov Kedmi rejected the petition without ruling explicitly on Halou's claim, though Zamir suggested that the accords might create certain rights for Palestinian prisoners under Israeli law.

The ruling acknowledged the state's argument that the appropriate number of prisoners had been released, and that it had therefore fulfilled its interoational obligation. However, it also cited the state's promise that Halou will "almost certainly" be included in the next release as making the court's intervention unnecessary. leaving open the question of what would happen if the state refuses

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meshulam asks court for rehearing Uzi Meshulam and his followers asked the Supreme Court yesterday to rehear their appeal before an expanded panel of justices, in its original verdict on the appeal, the court reduced Meshulam's sentence from eight years to 61/2, but the group wants a complete acquittal. While e split decision can often serve as a basis for a rehearing, it seems unlikely in this case, because the minority opinion was more stringent than the majority

Vote today on road accidents bill

The Knesset Economics Committee will vote today on a bill aimed at combatting road accidents, despite the Treasury's opposition, committee chairman Tzahi Haneghi (Likud) said yesterday. The hill was submitted by an unprecedented 91 MKs last summer, but has been stalled by the Treasury's objection that it will cost too Evelyn Gordon

No more public thank-yous

British Theatre

Government ministries and other public bodies will no longer be able to spend public funds on congramlatory newspaper advertisements to public figures, according to a bill approved yesterday by the Knesset Law Committee for second and third reading. The bill, sponsored by Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and Michael Eitan (Likud), imposes a NIS 10,000 fine on violators.

Justice to reply to comptroller's report

The justice minister will henceforth be responsible for replying to
the State Comptroller's Report for the government, now that the Economics Ministry, which previously had this job, no longer exists, according to a bill approved yesterday by the Knesset State Control Committee. The hill will now be sent to the plenum for its Evelyn Gordon

Histadrut hires media expert to improve image The Histadrut has hired media expert Yariv Ben-Eliezer and public surveys adviser Kalman Gayer to launch a massive advertising campaign in September to improve its public image and attract

The public is not aware of most of the Histadrut's activities and especially its activities for the workers, Histadrut leaders learned from public opinion polls.

The advertising campaign will consist of television broadcasts, radio jingles, printed ads, marketing and other things, based on the needs of the target population segments.

Michal Yudelman

Abeid guilty again

SULEIMAN Aheid, 46, was convicted of the rape/murder of Hanit Kikos for a second time hy the Beersheba District Court yesterday. He was again sen-

tenced to life in prison.

Abeid, of Rahat, was originally convicted on November 24, 1994, after confessing that he picked up the hitchhiking Kikos, 17, on June 10, 1993, in Ofakim, raping her on the way to Beersheha, killing her, and biding her hody in the Dudaim dump, where he worked.

He later retracted his confession, claiming it had been coerced. His lawyer, Avigdor

Feldman, appealed. On June 11, 1995, a skeleton was found in a Beersheha

drainage ditch, and DNA testing proved that it was that of Kikos. Since the remains were not found where Abeid had said he

hid the hody, the Supreme Court, on September 14, 1995, ordered that he be tried again. The court again decided to convict him, by a 2-1 majority,

with Judges Gilad Giladi and Zvi Segal voting to convict, and Judge Neal Hendel finding Abeid innocent. Feldman said he would again appeal.

Dozens of Beduin from Rahat and elsewhere in the Negev demonstrated outside the courthouse, expressing anger at the

decision.

GSS collaborator asks to have son returned from Jericho **EVELYN GORDON**

A GENERAL Security Service collaborator yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to ask

that the state get his three-year-old son back from Jericho for him. Rami Barhum, an Israeli Arah who has been working with the GSS for 25 years, said his wife

and son disappeared from their Jerusalem home on February S. He later discovered that they were with his wife's family in Jericho, hut the police said they had no authority to act in Jericho, and could therefore do nothing to get his son back.

Barbum then asked the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee for help, hut was told that the committee's hands were ned, because, though there is a clause which deals with the extradition of Palestinians to Israel, there is nothing in the Oslo Accords which deals with the transfer of Israelis from the Palesinian Authority to Israel. Barhum's wife and son are also Israeli Arahs.

Barhum therefore petitioned the court for belp. The court is to hear the case on Thursday.



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Histadrut joins in unions' pension fight

BEZEQ, Israel Aircraft Industries and civilian workers of the IDF will disrupt work one day this week as part of the large labor unions' campaign against the Finance Ministry's new pension plan which significantly cuts the pension rights of most of the nation's salaried workers.

The unions, who are demanding the immediate cancellation of the pension settlement, have launched sanctions and organizational measures which may include a strike. Last week El Al, the Airport Authority and high school teachers stopped work for two hours.

The Histadrut yesterday joined the 11 large labor unions fight over the settlement and included union representatives in the committee it set up to examine the agreement and re-negotiate its ierms with the Treasury.

Histadrul Chairman MK Amir Peretz was convinced, after a meeting with union leaders, that

MICHAL YUDELMAN

the pension settlement deprived workers of at least some of their pension rights.

The unions' committee includes the Israel Aircraft Industries, high school teachers, TAAS-Israel Industries, El Al, the Airport Authority, Bezeq, Oil Refineries, IDF civilian employees, the Weizman Institute, the technical engineers and technicians in the nuclear research center and Egged

The unions' representatives yes-terday took part in a stormy meeting of the Knesset sub-committee pension affairs, headed by Ya'akov Yishai, MKs Yishai, Ra'anan Cohen, Yossi Elul and Avi Yehezkel all agreed with the unions' demands and hlasted the Treasury for cutting down pension rights accumulated in decades of

hard work. "It is unthinkable that after 10,

or 15 or 20 years of work and saving, the government should come and say, excuse me, the product we promised and that you have paid for is not what you're going to get," said Shosh Oren, head of the high school teachers' union at the meeting.

The pension settlement was formulated by former Histadrul Chairman Haim Ramon and the Finance Ministry last year. However, the unions discovered that the Treasury then changed the original settlement, sharply damaging the workers' pension rights.

One change concerns the wages serving as a hasis for the pension allocation. The Treasury decided that instead of the worker's last wage, the pension will be calculated on the average of the last three years' wages, which drastically reduces the pension basis. Other changes cut down the pension rights of new workers joining the pension funds.

'Authorities share blame for Druse woman's murder'

OFFICIALS at the Defense for Children Rights' Center in Haifa yesterday charged that the authorities were partly to hlame for the death of Nuseira Muadi. who was killed by her brother on

Saturday night. Police discovered the hody of Muadi, 20, lying in an olive grove close to her home village of Yirka, her skull smashed hy a large rock. Her brother, Radwan, was found hanging from a tree a few hundred meters away.

On Saturday night, Radwan had gone to Safed College, where Nuseira was studying communications, and forced her to leave with him.

Center director Pamela Butter demanded that the authorities 10 do more to prevent such senseless deaths.

'Nuseira wasn't killed because of family honor," said Butter, adding that her hrothers had heen angry with her for pressing charges against her abusive father. "Our police and all the authorities involved are not trained to do the job properly.".

Muadi went to the center two months ago after being referred hy a psychiatrist who had treated her and suggested she seek

"She was a walking nightmare. who had been subjected to con-

Biggest Canada mission

THE largest ever Canadian mission to Israel - "1996 Mission 3000" of the United Israel Appeal of Canada - is due here today. Two jumbo jets will hring 1,200

donors aged 20 to 85, 60 percent for the first time, including families, couples and singles.

During the eight-day mission, the visitors will view the grave of Yitzhak Rahin and be addressed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The opening event will take place tonight in the new Olympic ice-skating arena at Canada Center in Metulla, built jointly by Canadian Jewry and Metulla. Canadian Jewry, which totals

360,000, raises more funds for Israel than any Jewish community other than the US. Batsheva Tsur

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MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

tinual abuse throughout her childhood, said Butter. She had been stahbed with scissors and knives, woken up in the middle of the night and beaten."

According to Butter, Muadi and her younger sisters were beaten not only hy her father. hut by her brothers and mother. Muadi had been hospitalized

several times with broken hones. There was a conspiracy of silence in the village." said Butter, "Nuseira's main concern was for her two younger sisters. who lived at home.

Muadi insisted that her complaint concerning her father, Samir, be registered anonymously because she was fright-

"The police ignored her request for anonymity and went to her Yirka home to question the sisters," said Butter. Ten days after the complaint was registered, her father was arrest-

afterwards. Immediately afterwards. Muadi's brothers began pressing her to withdraw the charges, threatening to kill her if she refused. "Several times they forced her to accompany them and I would get frantic calls from her roommate telling me

Nuseira had heen kidnapped." said Butter.

According to Butter, the brothers forced her to go to the police to withdraw the charges. When Muadi explained her plight, the

police laughed at her. After Samir Muadi was arrested, the center wrote letters to Lahor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, Justice Minister David Liha'i, and the different police officers who were handling the complaint informing them of the situation and asking for their intervention.

'We were constantly told by the local social workers and Yirka regional council members to lay off the case and leave

things alone, said Butter.
Lahor and Social Affairs Ministry spokesman Zvi Timor said yesterday that as soon as Namir received the letter relating to Musara's plight, she took

"The following day. Namir contacted all the local welfare authorities, as well as the regional council heads, and demanded they intervene and do everything possible to help the

Timor added that several times the authorities had offered Nuseira shelter or an adopted family, but she refused.

Fire and Rescue Commission gets additional NIS 50 million

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury added NIS 50 million to the Fire and Rescue Commission's hudget following the Jerusalem Corridor fire last July.
Interior Minister Haim Ramon told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Ramon said some NIS 20 million will he used to purchase new equipment, while another NIS 20 million will he used to increase manpower. Currently, Ramon said, the country has some 1,000 firefighters, but needs at least another 1,000 - particularly since some of the current complement are too old to handle the necessary physical

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat hlasted the government's long-standing inattention to the problems in the commission. She noted that she has repeatedly warned about these deficiencies, which literally endanger human life, but despite this, she said, successive governments have failed to give the issue "the appropriate attention."
However, committee chairman David Magen (Likud) praised Ramon for his efforts to improve the situation, and said his words aroused hope that perhaps the issue was finally being taken serious-

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An RAF Sea King helicopter lowers a salvage worker onto the deck of the crippled tanker 'Sea Empress' off the Welsh coast yesterday. Aircraft sparyed chemicals on a two-mile-long slick in an effort to keep the oil from reaching islands which are among Europe's most imporant bird sanctuaries.

Salvage team tries to anchor grounded oil tanker

MILFORD HAVEN, Wales (Reuter) - A 20member salvage team was airlifted onto the grounded oil tanker Sea Empress at first light yesterday and will attempt to secure the ship to the seabed before trying to transfer its cargo. officials said.

The vessel has so far spilled some 400 tonnes uf light crude oil onto a coastline reputed for its wildlife, and experts are fighting to avoid an environmental disaster.

Oil still trickled from the stem of the Liberian-registered tanker, which ran aground on Thursday off the south Wales coast carrying 130,000 tonnes of oil.

Three aircraft were spraying the six-km brown and black oil slick.

Coastguards said a patch of heavy oil was filling a nearby bay but the worst of the spill appeared to have been contained.

The next big hurdle is to secure the vessel firmly - actually physically moor her to the sea (bed) using a number of anchors," Joe Small, head of the marine Pollution Control Unit, said.

Anchoring the ship to the seabed will enable the salvage team to bring the vessel, which has been lying on its side with its deck battered by huge waves, back onto an even keel before

transferring its cargo.

The work is expected to take two days, depending on weather conditions, and salvage officials hope to start moving a smaller tanker alongside by midweek. Weather forecasters said the gales were likely to continue until this

Rough seas and gales forced a salvage team off the ship and the ship survived the stormy night with two tugs holding it in place.

Peter Cooney, managing director of Acomarit, which operated the Sea Empress, said salvagers were working in extreme conditions. "You must understand that you are under significant forces here - the sea, the wind and the weather and indeed the tide," Cooney said.

The game plan is to control the ship as much as is practically possible. The ship to a very large extent will control her own destiny because this is a 140,000-tonne vessel that bas

no propulsion." The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has launched an operation to save as many sea-birds, dolphins and seals as possible from the oil.

Conservationists say the area is home to as many as 100,000 birds. Rare red-throated divers and guillemots have already been found coated with oil.

"At the moment the situation seems not to be too serious...but it doesn't necessarily mean that that won't change for the worse tomorrow or the next day," Louise Tickle of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB said it was worried about government policies on prevention of oil spills.

"It is of great concern to the RSPB that government appears to be courting disaster by permitting oil and gas exploration in highly sensitive marine and coastal areas around Britain," said Philip Rothwell, head of policy operations.

NATO acts swiftly to build on Rome summit

NATO acted swiftly yesterday to build on the Rome summit which rescued the Bosnia peace accord from the brink of collapse, calling military leaders of the former warring factions to talks on a US airciast carrier.

A Joint Military Commission meeting bosted by US Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR), was the first contact since the Bosnian Serbs severed ties with NATO over the arrest last month of two senior... army officers.

A fast restoration of dialogue was vital to the peace process, as the finer - but essential - details of . military and civilian agreements are thrashed out in a complex series of meetings.

The arrest, and deportation a_ week ago, of the two officers from Sarajevo to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague was one of the critical issues threatening the hard-crafted Dayton peace accord that led to the weekend's short-: notice Rome talks.

At the summit, the presidents of Bosnia Croatia and Serbia patched up some deep-rooted differences, agreeing to resume allparty talks, to suspend UN sanctions on Bosnian Serbs, to work to ease tensions in Sarajevo and the divided town of Mostar and adopt a policy on war crimes and prisonSARAJEVO

"In Rome we have avoided a crisis," said US envoy Richard Holbrooke, architect of the pact which ended Bosma's 43 months of conflict.

Asked to attend the meeting with Smith on the USS George Washington were Bosnian government army chief General Rasim Delic, his ally Major-General Zivko Budimir of the Croat army. and Major-General Zvkor Tolimir, deputy commander of the separatist Serb army and British Lieutenant-General Michael Walker, commander of NATO's

Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

This is another step in IFOR's efforts to continue contacts between all parties and build confidence in the interest of ensuring the continued successful implementation of the General Framework Agreement (peace accord)," a NATO statement issued in Sarajevo said.

The summit began with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Croatian President Franjo Croatian President Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic shaking hands in a gesture of conciliation. It ended with their joint pledge to implement Dayton to the letter.

Susanna Agnelli, foreign minister of Italy which hosted the twoday meeting as European Union president, said it bad been "a race

against time" because of tensions

in Bosnia. Milosevic wou a promise from the United States that it would agree to moves towards suspending-UN sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs as long as NATO commanders in Bosnia are satisfied that Serb forces are comply700

ing with Dayton.

The three presidents reiterated a pledge to cooperate with the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague and agreed that only suspects already indicted by the tribunal should be arrested.

They said the reunification of Sarajevo should be carried out on schedule, with the handover of five Serb-held suburbs to the Croat-Moslem federation to be completed by March 20. The international community's

High Representative for Bosnia. Carl Bildt, said it was vital for Scrbs to remain in the Bosnian capital.

Bosnian Serbs fear that, when their former foes take over certain areas of Sarajevo, they will be subject to revenge attacks for the 3-1/2-year siege and shelling which the mainly Moslem government says killed 10,000 people and wounded 50,000.

The leaders reaffirmed their "strong commitment" to implementing Bosnia's Moslem-Croat federation, a keystone of Dayton to counter-balance the powerful

Carnival Rio bursts into dance

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter) - Rio de Janeiro's carnival beaded toward its climax on Sunday night and into the early hours yesterday as the first of the thousands-strong "Special" samba schools burst into an orgy of colour, flesh and

Giant floats, dancing girls whose feathers and tangas left little to the imagination and endless streams of revellers in costumes paraded down Rio's Sambadrome to the heart-throbbing beat of samba music,

The acrid smell of fireworks hung in the propical air as Rio's four-day feast of extravaganza and excess culminated in the first of two dusk-till-dawn nights of competition between the top ranked samba groups.

In the streets outside, thousands of people dressed up, or down, to take port in street parties fuelled by freely flowing beer and sugar cane spirit alcobol. In the order in

Tonight is the time for a megasalad of rythmn and noise," blared the O Globo newspaper.
"Carnival is all about having fun," said Oswaldo Jardim, artistie director of the Mangueira school, which was to try and delight Sambadrome audiences last night with what promised to be one of their most spectacular

Rio had to shake off the blues from beavy flooding the previous weekend in which at least 60 people died to get down to what Brazilians call the "World's Greatest Party".

The pre-Lenten parades kicked off gently on Friday night with the lowest grade samba troupes from the poorest slums, worst hit by the torrential rains.

On Saturday night it was the turn of the higher "A" grade schools. But the feast of excess that takes over Brazil's tourist capital every Carnival only really began for many Sunday night and yesterday. with the special schools, whose budgets start at \$800,000 and run

"Anarchists yes, but not all of us," was the title of the parade by one of the favourites to capture the Carnival 1996 crown, the Salgueiro school's 4,500-strong

"Not better, not worse, just a different kind of school," read the Tsbirts of Salgueiro aficionados as the stands of the Sambadrome burst into a sea of red and white Salgueiro flags.

The school members, danced their hearts out, oblivious to their stifling costumes. Floats towering up to 8 meters in height trembled as their passengers throbbed to the music. Organisers said they expected

70,000 people to cram into the Sambadrome. Millions more would watch the televised allnight processions from the comfort of their armchairs.

: Local newspapers reported that: the festivities represented a namover of \$1 billion for Rio de Janeiro in beer and whisky sales

Russian troops set to storm Chechen stronghold

MOSCOW (Reuter) - Russia's top military commander in the North Caucasus vowed yesterday to wipe out by the end of the day a group of separatist rebels hesieged by Russian troops for three days in a village in Chechova.

General Anatoly Kyashnin, quoled by Har-Tass news agency, said federal forces were in complete control of the situation around Novogroznensky, a rebelstronghold about 60 km east of Chechnya's capital Grozny.
"By the end of the day the fed-

eral forces blockading a group of rebels in the viltage of Novogroznensky will end an operation to eliminate them." Tass quoted Kvashnin as saving at a meeting in Grozny of the region's Moscow-installed government. Citizens near Novogroznensky

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told local reporters Russian artillery and helicopter gunships had attacked the settlement and the neighboring village of Bocht-Yun, but this could not immediately be confirmed.

Ryashnin, who commands Russia's North Caucasus military district, said civilians had been allowed to leave Novogroznensky through corridors left by the Russian troops and only separatist fighters remained there.

Earlier yesterday Interfax news agency said Russian forces had trapped up to 1,000 rebels in the settlement but were unable to advance on them because of heavy tog.

in a separate report, Interfax said Russian troops had killed or wounded 30 rebel guerrillas in the last 24 hours when they tried to break out of Novogroznensky.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

The Russian interior ministry, quoted by Tass, said one Russian serviceman was wounded yesterday near the village when rebels opened fire with grenade-launchers and other weapons.

commander-in-chief Aslan Maskhadov has been based in Novogroznensky, a settlement of several thousand recent weeks.

Chechen field commanders Shamil Basayev and Salman Raduyev were also there in January for the release of more than 40 hostages seized by rebels who escaped after a raid on neighboring Dagestan.

The rebels are still holding scores of other hostages they want to swap for Chechens taken prisoner by Russian forces.

Russia sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush a three-year independence bid led by Dzhokhar Dudayev. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, but separatists still control large areas of the region.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is working on a peace initiative to try to end the unpopular conflict before a June 16 presidential election in which he will seek a second term.

A special commission set up under Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin submitted its proposals to Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov yesterday, Tass said.

The commission's conclusions are to be presented to Yeltsin before a February 28 meeting of the policy-making Security Cuuncil inner circle of top officials. Interfax said the proposats would be handed over within two

Yeltsin's efforts to subdue the separatists by force have been widely criticized as itl-considered, hrutal and inept.

In the past three months, Russian Iroops have allowed rebels to escape from two besieged settlements - Gudermes in eastern Chechnya and Pervomaiskoye in the neighboring Dagestan region.

Tass said peace talks in Grozny between local officials and village leaders from Novogroznensky had broken down.0

"The result here has been nil." We have to start from scratch," the agency quoted Doku Zavgayev, head of the Moscowinstalled Chechen government, as

Poll: Britons increasingly desert royal family

their royal family through the row over King Edward VIII's abdication, the divorce of Queen Elizabeth's

Charles, the beir to the throne. But now, worn down by a succession of scandals, Britons increasingly agree that the royal family is an expensive luxury the country can no longer afford, an opinion poll said.

The MORI poll published by the *Independent* newspaper said two out of three people thought Britain would not suffer if the monarchy was abolished and 42 percent thought Queen Elizabeth and her relatives cost the country too much.

Only 41 percent believed Charles would make a good king, while 40 percent thought be would be a bad one. As recently as 1991, 82 percent said be had what it took to rule.

The royal family's popularity has been eroding steadily. The percentage of Britons saying that the country would be worse off without royalty has fallen from to 50 percent in May 1992 and 40 percent in December 1994 to 34 percent now.

The royals, to be sure, have been through some bad years as royal marriages fell apart amid acrimony and tittle-tattle about extramarital liaisons.

The security of the monarchy had seemed assured in 1981 when Charles married shy, blonde Princess Diana in a romantic ceremony that captivated the

LONDON (Reuter) - The British public stood by world's imagination. A year later, a golden-haired heir was born.

But the fairy-tale image of the royal family as a abol of British nationhood and a of conventional morality collapsed in 1992.

Prince Andrew, the queen's second son, split from his boisterous wife Sarah ("Fergie"), after six years of marriage. A few months later pictures were publisbed showing Fergie frolicking topless with financier John Bryan.

Princess Anne, the queen's daughter, got divorced and Charles and Diana topped off the queen's annus horribilis" by announcing they were separating.

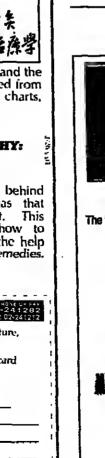
Not since Edward VIII left the throne in 1936 rather than give up American divorcee Wallis Simpson bad Buckingham Palace known such

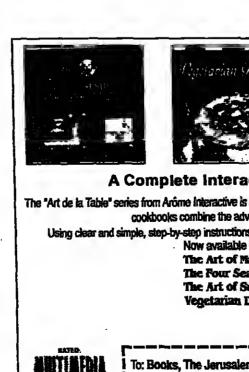
The 1978 divorce of the queen's sister. Princess Margaret, from photographer Lord Snowdon was

accepted with more equanimity. The royal institution has been rocked by more than just marital scandal. Newspapers have questioned whether the royals were overpaid and the queen has

finally agreed to pay tax. Fergie's free-spending ways have provided lively fodder for press beadlines, while virtually every top royal, from Charles to his father Prince Philip, have seen transcripts of their intimate telephone conversations plastered on the from pages.

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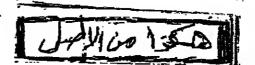
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All said, almost done, in N.H. primary

CONCORD, N.H.

WITH Sen. Bob Dole claiming only he can unite the party, Lamar Alexander scoffing at Dole as a weakened figure and Pat Buchanan saying he's got them all scared, Republican candidates took their final shots yesterday before the New Hampshire prima-

"Senator Dole's guys are saying today, 'We're going to win it ugly. Isn't that an indictment, quite frankly, of what's going on in Washington," Buchanan said on ABC television.

While Buchanan offers red meat, Alexander represents a kinder, gentler Republican who wants to send power away from Washington and back to states, cities and neighborhoods. Wearing a red and black plaid shirt, he has been walking across New Hampshire, playing pianos wherever he finds them, and planned to complete his trek yesterday in the coastal town of Portsmouth

Alexander, a self-proclaimed Washington outsider, targeted Dole too as the three clbowed for room at the top with polls showing them bunched together.

Bob Dole is ducking interviews. He's running negative ads. He doesn't have one single idea about how to lead us into the next century," the former Education Secretary said as he made the rounds of morning talk shows.

Dole was the only major Republican candidate who did not appear this morning on the network TV talk shows, although failed hopeful Phil Gramm showed up on NBC to tout his weekend endorsement of Dole.

spokesman Nelson Warfield, speaking outside a Rochester computer component plant Dole was touring, explained, We're taking our message oneon-one directly to the voters."

Gramm called Dole, "the only candidate that has any chance of bringing economic conservatives and social conservatives together to create a united party."

Buchanan, Gramm said, would only divide. 'I think his views on

DORKING, England (AP) - The magistrate in Britain's first Nazi

war crimes case began hearing.

argument yesterday over whether.

to try an 85-year-old retired car-

penter on charges of inurdering

Dressed in a flat cap and a gray

fur coat over a blue flannel shirt

and looking frail, Szymon

Serfomowicz, a native of Belarus,

walked slowly into Dorking

Magistrates' Court accompanied

Serafimowicz denies three

charges of murdering Jews in

Belarus, then a part of the Soviet

Union known as Byelorussia. A

fourth charge was dismissed Jan.

The bearing at the court in Dorking, 40 km southwest of London, is expected to last two

months. Most of the evidence will

remain secret, to avoid prejudic-

MOSCOW (AP) - President

Boris Yeltsin discussed his re-

election bid with "dear friend"
Helmut Kohl in the Kremlin ves-

terday and said he was worried by

the decrease of German business

apparent that German business-

men are taking a wait-and-see

attitude following the Communist

and nationalist victory in December's parliamentary polls and ahead of the presidential elec-

"German businessmen want to

announced

wait until June to see the fate of

reforms," he said after a 21/2-

Thursday that he is seeking a sec-ond term, and yesterday, he gave

Kohl a "frank" account of main

MOSCOW (AP) - A rocket carry-

ing six satellites blasted off yes-

terday from Russia's northern

The launch was at 00:58 GMT.

The Cyclone-3 rocket carried three Cosmos satellites for the

Defense Ministry and three

Gonets-D1 rockets for civilian

communications use, reports said.

what will be a series of 45 satel-

The Gonets-Dls are the first in

Plesersk launch site.

hour meeting with Kohl.

Yeltsin

Yeltsin said it has become

interests in Russia.

Jews in World War II.

by his lawyer.

First British Nazi

war crime trial opens

Kohl, Yeltsin, discuss elections

trade are so radical and would be so disastrous to the country that there's no way that mainstream economic conservatives would support him."

In recent days, his religious and protectionist rhetoric has become more and more strident. He affirmed his faith in the literal truth of the bibbical account of creation and dismissed Darwinism as nonsense. Then at a rally, he spoke of "peasants with pitcbforks" storming the Republican ramparts.

The former presidential speech writer told CNN yesterday: "We're going to change the Republican Party. We're going to make it working class. Working class, middle class folks don't have any voice in Washington." Publisher Steve Forbes, trailing badly in fourth place, used a sports analogy to push his message that he can't be counted out.
"I'm convinced we'll build sup-

port as we go ... it's gonna go into extra innings," Forbes told CBS.

The balloting begins at 6 a.m. today, but the GOP rivals already are looking beyond this first primary to the crowded nominating calendar that will follow - and to the Nov. 5 election against President Clinton.

Of the eight campaigning Republicans, late polls showed the top three bunched, with the edge still to Dole, the Senate majority leader and now-shaken front-runner. But Alexander and Buchanan were so close behind as to be statistically tied with him in some surveys.

Gramm was the 30th Republican senator to endorse Dole, along with 24 governors and assorted other party leaders. "We share a common objective," Dole said. "We want to keep the Republican Party together. We want to make the Republican

Party stronger. Gramm said Buchanan's campaign is a refuge for racists, but Buchanan, a conservative television commentator and newspaper columnist, denied it.

The mangled wreckage of the No. 171 bus traveling to Kings Cross lies in The Strand on Sunday night after a suspected IRA bomber blew up the bus exploded a bomb, possibly by accident, according to Scotland Yard detectives.

Survivor of IRA blast may be bomber

POLICE moved in yesterday to guard one of the survivors of an IRA blast that wrecked a London double-decker bus, prompting spec-ulation that at least one of the

One Irish Republican Army man was apparently killed when the bomb went off prematurely, securi-

Survivors say Scrafimowicz Witnesses at a London hospital was responsible for thousands of the deaths as the police commander of the Mir district of Belarus during the Nazi occupation in 1941 and 1942.

Serafimowicz came to Britain in

ing a jury.

He is free on bail at his home in

An estimated 200,000 Jews

were killed in Belarus during the

Banstead, near here.

1939-45 conflict:

Now a British citizen, be is the first person charged under Britain's 1991 War Crimes Act. It authorizes prosecution of alleged war criminals who were not British residents at the time for crimes not committed on British

Unlike the United States, Britain will not extradite suspected war criminals.

rivals, who are topped by the

Communist Gennady Zyuganov.

Some Russian news reports said

Kohl's visit was planned as an

endorsement of Yeltsin's decision

Asked about that at a news con-

Outright Western support of

Yeltsin is not necessarily benefi-

cial to the Russian president. His

Communist and ultranationalist opponents accuse him of being too friendly with the West - at

Yeltsin, who bas worried the

West in recent weeks by showing

signs of backing away from mar-

ket reforms, told reporters he

would not budge from the reform

process "one step, half a step, even a centimeter."

above the earth. Among other

things, the satellites will transmit

None of the reports gave details

Another launch, that one from

the Baikonur Cosmodrome in

Central Asia, was also scheduled

for yesterday, the ITAR-Tass

It said a Proton-K rocket was to

put a Raduga communications

The first the second of the first of the second of the sec

electronic mail, the reports said.

about the military satellites.

news agency said.

satellite in orbit.

ference, Kohl said only that he

and a boost to the incumbent.

welcomed" Yeltsin's step.

Russia's expense.

bombers was still alive.

ty sources said. The IRA warned Britain that it might broaden its campaign to other cities after three London bombs in 10 days marked a bloody end to their 17-month-old ceasefire.

treating the victims confirmed that one survivor was under armed police guard. He has a fractured skull and pelvis.

Police refused to comment on his identity but an anti-terrorist source told the Evening Standard: "We are treating this man as one of the

Detectives and Irish republican sources said they thought it was a bungled bomb attack that went off prematurely.

The IRA admitted responsibility yesterday for the blast which killed one person and injured nine. Four

were still hospitalized yesterday. Police believe the bomb was accidentally detonated near the Waldorf Hotel, and that the IRA's bomb carrier may have been among the vic-tims. The IRA has now killed three people in London since calling off

its 17-month cease-fire Feb. 9. Despite demands from some Protestant political leaders that the government simply lock up suspected IRA leaders, British and

ex-communists had flopped.

Maciej Jankowski told Reuters.

form of free coupons.

WARSAW (Reuter) - Informal estimates suggested a

turnout of less than half in Poland's referendum on sbaring out state assets, and the Solidarity union con-

ceded yesterday that its latest challenge to the ruling

has not been won. There was an inadequate turnout

and the government will be able to carry on doing

what it wants," Solidarity's Mazowsze region leader

By law, more than half the 28 million voters had to

take part to make the government act on the vote, in

which Solidarity sought a mandate for state firms and

other assets to be distributed among citizens in the

But Polish media organisations, informally moni-

The general aim, returning assets to the citizen.

News agencies LONDON

Irish leaders persisted in efforts to salvage something from the battered peace process in Northern Ireland

Londoners, meanwhile, seuled in to the familiar routine of bomb alerts. train cancellations and immobilized traffic.

You have always got it in the back of your mind that you could be in the same street next time," said John Langton, who was delivering meat yesteroay near the scene of the bombing.

"I am just carrying on as normal. There is nothing you can do - except hope the bombs don't come to you.

Scotland Yard said there was no warning before the explosion at 10:38 p.m. at the edge of the theater district near Covent Garden's popular restaurants and bars. Commander John Grieve, head of

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist unit. said yesterday that the bus "was not the miended target," although he couldn't say what was. The IRA, in a statement tele-

phoned to the BBC in Belfast. Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility. "We can say at this stage we regret the loss of life and injuries which occurred," the caller said. The mangled and burned wreck-

age continued to block traffic yesterday while police technicians probed for clues. Buses carry video cameras but it wasn't known if they survived the blast.

Solidarity concedes referendum a flop

daily commented.

to the citizen?"

Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Dr. David Williams, director of Accidents and Emergencies at St. Thomas' Hospital where the vicoms were treated, confirmed yesterday that armed guards were on duty

in the hospital. Scotland Yard refused to comment on the reason. Williams said one injured man, Ralf Hobart of Torquay in southwestern England, suffered severe injuries on the right side of his face and was in critical condition. His girlfriend, Denise Hall, 30, also was

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the third-largest and exclusively Protestant party in Northern Ireland, urged the government to simply lock up suspected IRA leaders.

iured.

Sir Patrick Maybew, Britain's minister responsible for governing Northern Ireland, said the search for a peaceful settlement would continue despite the hombing, and he rejected Protestant calls for the goverrument to end all contacts with the IRA's allies in the Sinn Fein party.

"It's perfectly clear that this (bombing) is part of a campaign designed to make the British govemment, a democratic government. comply with the wishes of terrorists. But of course that's going to fail," Mayhew said.

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, which gets most Roman Catholic votes in Northern Ireland, met for two hours yesterday with British Prime Minister John Major. Hume said they exchanged proposals but be gave no details.

to 40 percent.

The first referendum in democratic Poland turned

out to be a dud," the right-leaning Zycie Warszawy

Solidarity's former leader Lech Walesa called the

vote on its behalf in one of his last acts as Polisb pres-

ident after losing November polls to ex-communist

He posed a single question of principle designed to

challenge the ex-communist ruling party's cautious

policy on privatising remaining state firms: "Are you

for carrying out a general transfer of (state) property

The union said the vote was a last chance to create

a broad property-owning class and prevent assets

being kept under state control or cornered by a nar-

Villages mourn as probe begins into tunnel collapse

TOKYO (AP) - More than 120 Japanese police began yesterday investigating the highway tunnel cave-in that killed 20 people.

A newspaper and a news agency said they would look into whether there was criminal negligence in failing to foresee the fall of a huge boulder that smashed through the tunnel roof Feb. 10, crushing a car and a bus inside.

Meanwhile, in the fishing village of Furubira, the home of a dozen of the victims, funeral services were held and students at elementary and secondary schools observed a moment of silence to remember their dead

Townspeople prayed and offered incense at a white-cloth-covered altar near the tunnel.

"In Mourning," said notices posted all over town.

It took authorities a full week to break up the boulder with dynamite and dig through the rubble. Workers found 19 bodies on the bus Saturday evening and medical examiners concluded they had been killed almost instantly. The hody of the car's driver had been found a The government defended itself against complaints that it took too

long to dig out the bus and car and determine the victims' fate. ent spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama said the rescue effo

was carried out under difficult conditions. "It is categorically inappropriate to say that the work was delayed or

inadequate," he said. Nobuyuki Yagi, a spokesman for police on the northern island of

Hokkaido, site of the Toyohama Tunnel, said 122 police investigators have been assigned to the probe. Officials refused to comment on the focus of the investigation, but the newspaper Asahi and Kyodo News service said it concerned whether the cave-in could have been predicted. The Hokkaido Development Bureau, responsible for road mainte-

nance in the area, has said it made daily checks of the tunnel and a day before the cave-in found nothing abnormal. Authorities bave closed the tunnel highway indefinitely.

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ANKARA (AP) - A deal to form He told reporters yesterday

a conservative government with an anti-Western Islamic movement appeared closer to completion yesterday, but major hurdles remained, including the coalition's goals and Cabinet.

"Unfortunately we have not been able to conclude our talks and announce the good news to our people" that a government bas been formed, ex-Premier Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the center-right Motherland party, said as he sat next to Necmettin Erbakan, bead of the Islamic Welfare party.

Yilmaz had predicted a government deal would be sealed by last night, which marks the eod of the Moslem boly mouth of Ramadan.

dition of anonymity.

under the proposed plan. Said Erbakan: We bave reached the final stages in our efforts to form a government." After an abrupt cancellation of

negotiation session seemed to

The two sides moved closer when Yilmaz apparently dropped his demand that Motherland govern alone initially and have the pro-Islamic Welfare party join in a coalition later.

Yilmaz told reporters that divvying up of ministries still had to be worked out. Then the two sides would begin work on a joint

If these discussions (on the ministries) are completed by Friday, we hope to start negotiations on a coalition program ... and we hope to form a coalition government as soon as possible,"

lites orbiting 1,500 kilometers Report: O.J. Simpson scans Ireland NEW YORK - Is O.J. Simpson planning to become O'J. Simpson? A New York newspaper reported yesterday that Simpson may be eyeing Ireland in search of a seaside estate as a new home to escape media atten-

Rocket launches six satellites

"To the Irish people, Simpson is more of a side show," said an Irish government official who requested anonymity. "He wouldn't be hound-

ed here as he would be in the States." Representatives for the former football star, acquitted Oct. 3 of the murders of his wife and her friend, said real estate dealers in the County Kerry were searching for the new home, according to the New York Post. In addition, US federal and California officials suspect Simpson may be trying to shelter his cash to avoid having to settle with money if he loses two pending wrongful-death suits, according to the Post (Agencies)

والمراجعة للتحجير والهوارة والمتهوة والمدارية والمحجود والمراه والمراجع وال

toring polling stations, put participation at about 30 row elite of ex-communist managers. Turkish Islamic political problems remain help eliminate some differences. afternoon that the two leaders had agreed that he head the government for 10 months, then hand over the premiership to Erbakan. Another Welfare figure would

be the deputy premier during Yilmaz's reign, a Welfare deputy told The Associated Press on con-

He said Erbakan would lead the government for the following two years and then band the position back to Yilmaz for another year.

the talks on Sunday, an all-night

Yilmaz said. The next meeting was set for tomorrow.

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An avoidable tragedy

T is perhaps inevitable that only especially shocking traffic accidents produce public Loutrage. The usual daily death toll seems to be treated as part of an unfortunate but unavoidable routine, and the grisly accumulation of yearly victims is accepted as not much more than sad statistics.

But yesterday's tragedy near Kibbutz Lavie was an unmitigated horror - not only because it cost the lives of children, but because it was eminently avoidable. In fact, it provided an excellent example of what causes many of the fatal accidents in this country.

First, the section of the road on which the accident occurred is known as "the death curve." It is not only a sharp curve, but a steep strip exposed to fierce winds. In 1995, 22 accidents occurred there, causing four fatalities and 60 serious injuries.

Second, the brakes of the semitrailer which caused the accident were faulty.

Third, the semitrailer's 25-year-old driver, Mohammed Salah Hammoudi, who acquired his driver's license five years ago, has a record of 16 convictions on traffic violations, including four for speeding.

None of these elements should have been allowed to exist. The road should have been drivers access to the country's roads.

improved before an accident ever occurred on it; no great insight is needed to tell that this kind of curve is an invitation to havoc. That nothing was done even after a year plagued by 22 accidents and four fatalities betrays an attitude bordering on criminal negligence.

The semitrailer should not have been allowed on the road with faulty brakes. That the Ministry of Transport does not make the inspection of such vehicles a top priority, and that it does not mete out severe punishments to transgressors, means that it is not doing its job. It is no secret that buses and trucks are responsible for a disproportionate number of fatal accidents in Israel. The least the police and the Transport Ministry can do is remove defective vehicles from the country's highways.

But the most outrageous aspect of the tragedy is that a man of Hammoudi's record is allowed to possess a driving license. In such cases it is obviously a license to kill. As studies have shown, the most lethal cause of road accidents is speed. When the chronic speeder is a driver of a giant vehicle, his chances of killing multiply. There is something fundamentally, sickeningly wrong with a court system which knowingly invites the killing of children by allowing such

Yeltsin bounces back

TWO months ago it seemed inconceivable that President Boris Yeltsin would run again for office in this year's Russian election. Indeed, any suggestion that the frail and tottering president might harbor any such idea would have been put down to an indication of a further deterioration of his faculties. Yet last week when he flew to a rare warm welcome, albeit in his hometown of Yekaterinburg, some of the Yeltsin of yore seemed to have come bouncing back as he announced his

The question remains whether the 65-yearold Yeltsin will have the physical and political stamina to stay on the grueling course of the election campaign, let alone that of another four years in office, should be confound the pundits and win. The key to his amazing resilieoce seems to lie in his firm belief that nothing less than the future of the reform movement in Russia rests on his shoulders. It is a rekindling of the fire that led the previously unremarkable Yellsin up on a tank and into the history books wheo he faced down the communist coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991. In fact, he believes he is now facing another attempted communist coup, this time by election.

Western political experts, especially io Washington, have been agonizing over whether Yeltsin remains "the right man" to depend on in mapping out foreign policy vis a vis Russia. It is the same agonizing which surfaces from time to time over such countries as Algeria - namely, is it time to dump the "moderates" and look to the realism of a new generation of different rulers whom it might be best not to antagonize at an early stage, as was done in Iran.

Yeltsin is trailing hopelessly in opinion polls - often down to single digit "approval" during some Chechnya crisis or other. Yet, paradoxi-

Sir, - To my amazement I have

found no reaction to the unbeliev-

able demand by the Palestine Au-

thority that Israel should apologize

to the Palestinians for its "behavior

as voiced by its senior official Afif

Sa'afia and reported in your January

25 issue. To me, it is a clear indica-

tion that there can be no meaningful

peace process with such a state of

mind, and the earlier the govern-ment will recognize this, the more

further damage to Israel's interests

If any apology is due, it would be on the part of the Arab people for

having conquered the area of Pales-

tine with the advent of Islam, allow-

ing the land to go to pot over the

centuries and treating abominably

those Jews who had remained, and

initiating violence and war against

Zionisni, when the Jewish people

started to return to their homeland a

What Israeli behavior throughout

Sir, - It makes my blood boil to

read criticism of Israel which is

based on distortions of the truth. I

am referring to the comment of Ted-

dy Kollek on February 9 to the ef-

fect that Israel must bear some re-

sponsibility for the hatred which the

Arabs feel for Israel since our coun-

try exacerbated the situation "by

playing the part of the conquering

nation from 1967 till now." What a

misleading remark! Israel had the

role of "conqueror" thrust upon it,

as Mr. Kollek well knows, because

it was compelled, yet again in 1967,

to fight a defensive war against an

enemy bent on wiping it out.

can be avoided.

towards them throughout history"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR I

NO APOLOGY CALLED FOR

history does Mr. Sa'afia allude to?

How can he draw a parallel between

Germany, which liquidated millions

as a matter of policy, and Israel,

which had to kill Arabs in efforts to

Or does Mr. Sa'afia mean that

Israel killed millions of Arabs?

Aside from the fact that of course

nothing like that happened, where

would those millions have come

from? The country was notoriously

empty of inhabitants at the turn of

this century. Ever since the failed

1948 invasion of the new Israel

caused many Arabs in its area to

flee, the Arab side has been talking

about millions of refugees. If they

are there, they could have come

from one main source only: the un-

counted thousands of Arab emi-

grants from all over the Middle East

who were allowed to cross into Pal-

It is a well-known fact, but conve-

estine during the British Mandate.

defend itself from annihilation?

cally, if the man himself does oot last the course, it remains true that his policies of reform have been the right ooes and will probably outlive him. Yeltsin has charged that a win for Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov would mean "the destruction of the country." Zyuganov in turn sneers at Yeltsin as a "weak pawn of the Americans." This is indeed good old election rhetoric, but "election rhetoric" is a phrase tossed around with ease in most countries, either by opponents to discredit a candidate's consistency, or by supporters to explain it

The reality for the moment appears to be that Yeltsin's reforms of the last four years have become too deeply embedded, even in former communists, to be dismantled easily. Eveo those who have made much of Yeltsin backing away from reform have been doing some rapid rethinking after his ebullicot performance in Yekaterinburg. The Kommersant Daily oewspaper, for example, said Yeltsin had revived hopes that he might beat off Zyuganov's challenge in Juoe. The daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta also ooted that "Yeltsin is portrayed as above any parties and distanced from ideologies; he is presecting himself as an all-oational leader."

That is far from saying he might win, but - if Zyuganov and his followers fight democratically to gain power, and keep assurances that if they win it they will not undermine democracy - it would be a victory the world could live with. Given the choice of the plodding but basically decent Zyuganov and the extremely dangerous Vladimir Zhirinovsky on the nationalist right, it is unlikely even the most hardline American Republican would opt for the flaky Zhirinovsky. Even if Yeltsin loses, Russia and the world can at least hope his legacy will be more difficult to dismiss than the man himself.



Now you see it, now you don't!

Shape up, or wind up

tunny how we journalists are so cynical when it comes to assessing the future of others and so naive when it comes to our

For one week, the future of Davar Rishon appeared sealed. The Histadrut said it hadn't found a buyer, and there was no point in pouring any more money in to keep the newspaper alive.

Suddenly, on Thursday, there was a breakthrough. The Histadrut would enter a partnership with a group of investors that would seek to buy the daily.

Zvi Goren, a Davar Rishon columnist, put it this way: "There was no miracle here, but a victory for wisdom and the recognition that it isn't enough to talk about freedom of the press; there must be concern that there will be newspapers."

I hate to be a party-pooper - but what will this group of investors see in Davar Rishon that a previous investor, Jean Friedman, missed?

Friedman was interested in buying the newspaper until he found out that Dayar had nothing except lots of paychecks and a masthead. The readers had long left. The newspaper's biggest advertiser was its former owner, the Histadrut.

In the end, what was Friedman as great a supporter of the Labor-led government as any financier - or any other prospective buyer actually being offered? Turns out little more than a reputation, and that doesn't exactly promise a profit.

A reprieve always brings with it hope. But I wonder how many of the revelers consider whether the Histadrut's last-minute bailout is simply smart politics by Secretary-General Amir Peretz at a time when he and his colleagues face a primaries battle in Labor. How do we know the Histadrut decision won't be reversed after national elections in a mere three months?

LET'S talk economics. Israel's print media is being downsized. The two financial dailies Globes and Telegraph are in a death grip, and so far the former has two-thirds of the readers and perhaps even more of the advertisers. Telegraph, which is traded on the stock exchange, has more capital than most start-up newspapers, but after a while even the patient investor wants to cut his

STEVE RODAN

Another victim in the shrinking print media could be the loser in the Yediot-Ma'ariv battle, in which two newspapers look alike, read alike, and sometimes even report alike.

Both papers have lost circulation, and Yediot has lost advertising. Ma'ariv editor and publisher Ofer Nimrodi is in trouble up to his ears with the wiretapping affair and,

American capitalism has swept in with a vengeance throughout Israel's print media

given the choice of where to put his money - in his legal defense or to prop up a struggling tabloid - I think the answer is obvious. Yediot's Moshe Vardi has just resigned as editor, but his newspaper has retained its market share in circula-

Well, that leaves two Hebrew dailies - a far cry from the nine that little Israel had only two years ago. Remember Al Hamishmar, Hadashot, Yom Leyom? The name of the game is capitalism, and it Darwinian principles are being felt most in the media business.

Here there is no pressure for a government bailout; no sight of reporters burning tires in the streets; no drive for a massive subscription campaign to save an ailing newspa-

In many ways, it's still better here than in America. Most major US cities, some of them which come close to or equal the size of Israel's population, have one newspaper. In two-newspaper towns, either the publications appeal to two distinct audiences - one upscale and one blue collar - or they both bleed to death until one of the owners decides it isn't worth the fight.

The shrinking of the market isn't necessarily bad. Davar, whatever its future portends, was a fine newspaper, but let's face it: union dues were paying for it. The government was buying it, and nobody was reading it. It only became important during the Histadrut elections.

As Davar Rishon, the new management has to face hard reality. It takes years to build a readership, sometimes longer to convince advertisers that you're worth paying for a two-by-two.

Remember USA Today? It blew \$100 million until the national advertisers threw business its way. Davar Rishon couldn't do more

than pay salaries for a few months. What's left? The weeklies, for one. Those in the major cities are hard-hitting and often do a better job of coverage than the dailies. Many of them started as shoppers and slowly moved to paid circulation. That's called natural growth.

Then there's regional radio. You won't find much news, but you'll get plenty of traffic, weather, sports, music and call-ins. The government channel has the news. We foot the

Television: Channel Two has eclipsed government television and set the standard for nightly entertamment plenty of soaps, Americancomedies and game shows (cable television fills in the gaps.) For better or for worse, they attract view-Agriculture might be subsidized;

tected; textiles are still getting hand-Swept in with a vengeance throughout Israel's print media. If you're well-capitalized, costconscious, and keep in touch with the changing whims of your reader-

the defense industries remain pro-

ship, you have a chance. Otherwise, prepare to join the graveyard of once-proud mastheads. So as journalists, let's not kid ourselves. We might think we're

smarter than our readership, and certainly more sophisticated. But if we don't remain credible -

and that is the key to any publication - and report on our readers' interests, then we're out of business. in the end, it's their shekel, and we'd better remember that. Ahh, capitalism, the great leveler.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Hehrew-language daily, then that is all it should have. They would

add that this is the age of private-

ly owned papers, whose right to exist is measured by how many

copies they sell, and that there is

no room in an enlightened country

Hired help

MARK L LEVINSON

'm not sure what the problem is, but I think the solution is

Davar Rishon recently reported "a proposal that security at crossings between Index and Samaria and Gaza be manned by employees of a private guard company.

We may not be the first country to pay Filipinas to take care of our families, or Thais to work our farms, or Romanians to build our skyscrapers, but I suspect we would be the first in recent history to pay commercial watchmen

to guard our borders. What problem is this supposed to solve?

According to Independent Media Review & Analysis, which summarized the Davar Rishon article, deputy chief of staff Matan Vilna'i is weighing the proposal because, for one thing, it would "reduce contact between the IDF and Palestinians at the crossings, in particular Palestinian VIPs. The guards

would not wear army uniforms." Is the problem, then, that the VIPs (who commonly attained their status by Virulent Israel-Pestering) are offended by the sight of our soldiers?

A case can be made for keeping soldiers away from a teeming and otherwise peaceful casbah where they would only risk provocation - but if you can't put a soldier on your border, where can you put

If a Palestiman VIP is upset at confronting an Israeli soldier in order to enter Israeli territory, perhaps he had better just have a glass of water and stay in Gaza. until he composes himself.

The item goes on: "One advantage of the proposal would be that there would be considerably less turnover at the positions as compared to IDF staffing."

Is that a hint? Do the soldiers and Palestinians need to be separated because inexperienced guards are misbehaving? If that's the problem, it makes

more sense to improve the guards' training rather than give up and replace them. The army may need lots of well-trained guards in the future to exercise tact and authority in handling Arabs and others.

I thought the idea of putting so many people through the army and calling them back year after year was to maintain a pool of trained soldiers for any contingency. Why else would we so disrupt the economy with mass military service?

That's what I thought, and maybe I'm out of date. There's talk of cutting back on

army service. Voters get little

Paid watchmen to guard our borders? We'd be the first country to do it

enjoyment from serving - still less do they like their children toting kitbags - and the govern- 1 ment's pretty confident no major attacks are pending. The main threat from day to day is infiltrators, and if we can pay a company to stop them for us____

MAYBE the real problem the paid watchmen are supposed to solve is how to free up the rest of us for more comfortable living. But it's still a bad idea. Financial deals are good only for quantifiable results.

How are you going to measure the level of border safety a private firm supplies? The next terrorist may not be kind enough to explain to us how he entered the country.

And if we find out anyway,

what will we do?

If, unlike today's guards, the contractor can't manage to lay the blame on a faulty metal detector. hy how many shekels per victim will we dock his fee?

Of course we could run spot checks with mock terrorists, but where profit is involved, spot checks are too easily subject to chicanery. An army without the dedication to do its own guard duty won't be a dedicated critic of the guards who relieve it of that chore.

The army, in fact, might deeply understand any failure. What with the Palestinian VIPs.

their families, and their vehicles. all immune to inspection, smuggling and infiltration through the checkpoints are languably easy. From the point of view of an

army without the power to inspect, how to save face if the worst happens is a problem of the

the one non-military guards on the border are supposed to solve: The writer is a Herzliya-based freelancer.

imade nev

.

first magnitude.

Maybe that problem, after all, is

المكان الاصل

MAURICE A. HARTOG

niently ignored by those looking for a stick with which to beat Israel, that as "conqueror" - an emotive word, beloved of Israel bashers the world over - Israel brought about tremendous improvements in the standard of living of the Arabs under its control and was only prevented from completing a housing project for the Gazans hecause of the threats of the PLO to kill Arabs who moved into such houses - since they would then lose their refugee status.

RHONA YEMINI

ISRAEL MUSEUM

Sir. - On a trip to Jerusalem in January, I visited the Israel Museum. What a wonderful surprise! Many of the world's large museums have fantastic collections but few do them justice in the way they are presented and interpreted. Not so at the Israel Museum. The high standard of presentation of the exhibits

is a credit to the director and staff. The energy that exudes in this museum must surely reflect the commitment and leadership of the director, Dr. Weyl. It was with some sadness, but not without understanding, that subsequent to my visit, I read of Dr. Weyl's resignation. All over the world, directors of large institutions are facing demands and expectations on their skills and time far beyond that which is feasible. The requirement for Dr. Weyl to fund-raise 80 percent of his budget is a sad testimony to the value being placed on the museum.

Although acknowledging the complex demands on government financial resources, one would hope that the time is near when the somewhat meager 20 percent state fund-

ing could be increased. It is said that in order for a nation to mature and proceed into the future, it must first know its past. Museums are the custodians of a nation's history and culture. An increased government commitment to this fine museum could well prove to be a sound investment for the people of Israel.

BOB MAYSMOR. Director, Dowse Art Museum Wellington, New Zealand.

Profit isn't everything

ike the Koor concern. Davar Rishon (called Davar Jup to eight months ago) was Histadrut-owned for many decades. It reflected the socialist (some would say Bolshevik) approach of the workers' federation, which held that industry should exist not only for profit, but to serve social values - even at the expense of profits - and that

there is nothing wrong with a mobilized, "ideological" press. All this worked well while both Koor and Davar held their own, or the Histadrut covered their losses. But the Histadrut's growing economic insolvency at the end of the 1980s forced Koor to become an industrial conglomerate in which the Histadrut remained a minority shareholder and profits became the supreme, even if not sole driving force.

As a newspaper, Davur had difficulty following a similar pattern. Its daily sales fell to below 20,000, and it became highly questionable whether it could continue to come out, especially after the "New Histadrut" under the leadership of Haun Ramon and then Amir Peretz refused to cover the paper's losses indefinitely. Ramon doesn't helieve in a mobilized press; Peretz cited the Histadrut's economic straits.

UNDER editor Ron Ben-Yishai. one of Israel's finest journalists, Davar Rishon is no longer the

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF stuffy old Bolshevik Davar of the

'50s. At the same time, it is very unlike its only Hebrew daily compelitor, Ha aretz. As one who reads both papers

every morning, I find Davar Rishon less pompous and elitist, and a little more humane. As regards straight reporting the two papers are similar, but Davar Rishon is more concise, continu-

The case for publicly financed quality newspapers

ing to reflect a social conscience and a concern for low-salaried workers (of whom there are still several million in this country) that Ha'aretz, with its laissezfaire approach, seems totally to

The paper also has some firstclass reporters (my favorites are political reporters Amir Neuman and Daniel Ben-Simon, and Mideast correspondent Dan Avidan), as well as some fine oldtimers who would be like fish out of water at another paper.

Laissez-faire advocates would argue that if the public is willing to support just one serious for publicly owned papers, even quality ones. But what with the trial of Ma'ariv owner Ofer Nimrodi,

the ugly personal wars of the Moses family (owners of Yediot Aharonot) and the fate of Robert Maxwell (who almost became owner of The Jerusalem Post several years ago), there is something to be said for publicly owned newspapers. The only question is whether they should continue if they cannot show a profit after trimming off all the fat.

Just as no one in the enlightened world questions the need to subsidize national theaters or opera companies, a strong case can be made for public financing of quality papers, as long as they aren't wastefully run.

A quality paper is one whose arti-cles are original and thought-provoking, whose reporting is as unbiased as possible, whose features are informative and factually accurate, and whose editorials and opinion pieces are intellectually honest regardless of political stance. Davar Rishon is such a paper.

The writer is a political scien-

Grammy '96 on one disc

That if God was one of us/ Just a slob W like one of us/ Just a stranger on a bus/ Trying to make his way home?" wonders Joan Osborne in "One Of Us," her offbeat, standout single featured in the collection 1996 Granmy Nominees (NMC). The sleepyvoiced Osborne is the only artist on the album to be nominated in all three categories represented: Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist.

She is thus pitted against Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson and Brandy, a heretical, white fringe rocker competing against black artists so middle-of-the-road that they seem to have become the voice of the silent majority Relish is not yet being promoted in Israel, is the only white contender in the Best Record Category. Mariah Carey, whose predictable Daydream (NMC) is represented hy the catchy, sentimental "One Sweet Day" sung in perfect harmony with Boyz 11 Men, seems to represent the Amer-1-Can way.

Meanwhile rapper Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" from the soundtrack to Dangerous Minds (Hed Arzi), with its Stevie Wonder sample and strident violins, is a powerful statement about the lives of those for whom the-American dream sounds like a royal crock,

Coolio, hy the way, is from Britain, as is Seal, whose Elizabethan madrigal "Kiss From A Rose" represents his eponymous second album.

The fifth contender, Atlanta girl group TLC's lovely, beat-driven Waterfalls' CrazySexyCool (Hed Arzi) is also a cautionary tale about surviving

the mean streets. For Song of the Year Osborne and Seal are joined by Michael Jackson singing "You Are Not with it.

Alone" to a Lisa Marie Presley who has since fled. Meanwhile boy group All-4-One sings a '50s retro 'I Can Love You Like That" and Alanis Morisette counters their sweet nothings with "Yon Oughta Know," a blistering rock reminder that "hell hath no fury like a woman scomed." For Best New Artist Osborne

and Morisette are joined in the outspoken woman department by Shania Twain whose The Woman In Me is also unknown in Israel. On "Any Man Of Mine" Twain, accompanied by country fiddles, spells out the New World Order. "Any man of mine better be proud of me/ Even when I'm muddy still better love me/ I can be late for a date, that's fine/ But he better be on time."

Meanwhile teenage Brandy's eponymous debut (Hed Arzi) is represented by the smoothly produced, totally nonthreatening

The only white males on the entire album are the soft-rock musicians backing the lead singer of Hootie & The Blowfisb, a black man who wears his baseball cap with its visor forward in a Colin Powellesque, armed forces veteran manner and sounds pleasantly color-free as he sings "Let Her Cry" from Cracked Rear View (Hed Arzi).

It's an exasperated, compassionate song by a man who loves a woman who insists on leading, but doesn't seem to know where she's going.

What do these choices by the music establishment of the world's only great superpower reflect about the values of 1996? Your guess is as good as mine. But I'll bet that somewhere up in white male beaven Bing Crosby is glad that he's not around to deal



Atlanta-based girl group TLC is up for a major award with 'Waterfalls' from CrazySexyCool.

Theater turned spectator sport

HELEN KAYE

ut with dull old Audience Participation. In with sexy Interactive Theater. (Psst! same thing, different

Playwright/director Dr. Dan Ronen doesn't want the audience sining in its seats in the dark. passive as cabbages. Instead they should be active and involved, like those in Sbakespeare's time.

"Audiences then were very active," says Ronen. "The asides in Shakespeare's plays were probably answers to shouts from the audience on the stage and in the pit, and then somebody subsequently wrote them into the prompt script."

It was the famous 18th-century actor/manager David Garrick who threw the audience off the stage because they bothered him." Ronen continues, and it's been downhill ever since, "especially since [the invention of] TV, which does everything [for you), even laugh.

He did his doctorate on the experimental theater movements of the Sixties, one of whose aims was audience participation, but their efforts "had exactly the opposite effect because they tried to turn their audience into actors. What I'm trying to do is expand the audience's role as a spectator.

And the more the merrier. His comedy whodunin, Rosh Meshuga (the US title is Sheur Madness), has spectators choosing which of four possible sus-

pects is the murderer. In the political satire Miss Isroel. (written with Ephraim Sidon), the audience must elect one of six (male) candidates to

This means the plays, respectively, have four and six different endings, depending on which the audience chooses. The temporarily titled Open

Minds, which Ronen is still writing, is his most ambitious yet, because the audience will have to make a choice about every 10

it will to have to choose not only who the leading character (of four) will be, what kind of play (drama, tragedy, comedy or melodrama) they'll see, but also the play's development will

depend on its choices. Each play, contends Ronen, develops the audience a liole more, but without scaring it off. And audiences respond.

The 1990 Cameri production of Rosh Meshuga ran for 350 performances. Ronen, who owns the Israeli rights, has just revived it in a commercial production with a new cast.

Miss Israel at the Jerusalem Khan is going strong, and his improvisational Theater Games are as popular today as when he started them at Tel Aviv Tzavia in 1969.

The audience's favorite in that one, Ronen says, is "Who Am I." in which the actress (Ronen's wife Etty Shiloni), leaves the

stage.
The audience creates a character and a script for her "that's a dozen times more lurid and imaginative than the scriptwriters of Ramai Aviv Gimmel ever dreamed up.'

He wants to create an Interactive Center for the Arts where all the performing arts will create with audience participation in mind.

Meanwhile the first-ever Interactive Arts Festival is scheduled for the end of May. The program includes dance, jazz, theater games, and even an interactive opera.

And interactive Shakespeare? Certainly, Ronen says stoutly, hut the audience has to be ready for it and it's not quite there yet.

Immigrant opera singer takes caravan route to success

mother broke the news

opera singer now reminisces in music conservatory, where I fluent, slang-filled Hebrew. "It began studying voice. I graduatwas sort of ironic. My mother ed cum laude and was accepted told me that we are moving for to the famous Gnessin Institute the benefit of my future, but I in Moscow. I thought my future was happy, I really did not want to leave." Being initially settled in a caravan in the depressed southern development town of Ofakim didn't help matters.

Levitt had enjoyed the cultural riches of her birthplace in west-

Then Marina Levitt's em Ukraine. "Lvov was a really Western city, culture wise. As a to her 19-year-old child I recall I had a subscription daughter that the family was to a lecture series in the museum, emigrating from their native; where I learned much about art. I Lvov to Israel, Marina was less really Joyed Lvov. In school than thrilled: "I cried a lot," the successful ducting and then moved on to a

> was really bright, and then I realized I must leave all this behind.

She adds that as a Jew it was not easy to get accepted into the conservatory. "But once I was in, I was treated excellently."

Levitt's luck bere changed when she entered the Rubin Music Academy at the Tel Aviv University, studying with Natanya Dovrat and Rafael Arie. "From the time I was 10 years"

old I knew I wanted to he an opera singer. Now I really felt it was starting to happen." Throughout her studies at the academy, Levitt performed with various local music ensembles, including the Rinat National Choir, where she was a soloist

for three years. Upon graduating, she went to New York, without benefit of a scholarship. "I lived there with friends,

took private lessons, and then I

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

was told I could apply to study in

Within two weeks I was living in Bloomington and studying. at the University of Indiana."-For three years Levin studied

voice with Virginia Zeani, and in her final year had started to work in the Virginia Opera.

Now Levitt makes her home in Israel, which doesn't always give her a hooking advantage. "It makes me angry that local orchestras tend to prefer foreign singers to Israelis. But I can't complain. I have sung with most orchestras in Israel and have per-

formed numerous roles with the New Israeli Opera."

In fact, the nine roles she has sung with the New Israeli Opera since her 1989 dehut as Mimi in La Boheme, make her one of the most frequent performers with the company.

She has traveled abroad less since the birth seven months ago of her son Eli (pronounced Ilay). "I sang when I was pregnant, but I don't think it's wise to do auditions when you are eight months pregnant. Everyone told me that after the pregnancy my voice would change, that it would became darker. I was told that pregnancy does wonders for the voice, but it did nothing for

It was during the pregnancy that she made her New York debut singing the lead role in Rimsky-Korsakov's The Tsor's Bride with the Opera Orchestra of New York at Carnegie Hall. During that performance she shared the stage with another Israeli, mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretsky.

We are both from Lvov, but I turned out that I went to school with Susanna's husband and I also knew her brother very

well. Now these two Lvov-born singers will reunite once again on the concert stage, singing

Vivaldi's Gloria and Rossini's Stabat Mater with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Mendi Rodan this Sunday and Tuesday.

After the IPO dates she will sing in. Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dreom in a special gala concert with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra on March 3 before traveling to Ireland to sing Pamina in The

In between stage roles she enjoys most playing mom. "Eli is the greatest joy of my life. It's something that I wanted for so long. And I can tell he really loves music. The first thing he smiled to was music."

Old made new again under Maazel's baton

hat really made this second concert of the second concert of the Pittsburgb Symphony with Lorin Maazel so exciting was neither the virtuosity of the orchestra nor the brilliance of its brass section.

Rather, it was Maazel's interpretative originality which almost turned the performance of the two main items, both old warhorses - the Sibelius violin concerto and the "Eroica" - into first performances. It is a pity that Morton Gould's Classical Variations on Colonial Themes proved such a miserable curtain-

Sibelius's violin concerto is actually a symphony for violin and orchestra and Maazel treated it exactly as Sibelius probably imagined it.

The soloist, Julian Racblin, collaborated joyfully with the conductor and probably shared Manzel's conception. Manzel allowed young Rachlin to display in full his restrained, noble and elegant solo line, bringing out the grandeur of orchestral statements, not as some kind of accompaniment but as sovereign. orchestral deliberations.

Maazel integrated the two parts into the basic symphonic dea which lies at the beart of the whole composition. And, in a Paganini encore, Rachlin displayed fireworks and virtuoso

acrobatics. The "Eroica" was even more interesting.

The "allegro con brio," on which most conductors put great emphasis, emerged in Maszel's version as slightly aloof, mechanical and a little too quick. But, though lacking some of

the strength you expect from the

first movement of the "Eroica,"

it seemed, with the beginning of the "adagio assai" funeral march, to reveal Maazel's grand design. In Maazel's interpretation, the funeral march was the symphony's first peak, one which assumed mighty climaxes and in which Maazel reached heights of

perfection and beauty. Then again, in the "scherzo" there seemed a lull in tension, a breathing space, which led us, refreshed, to the last movement. The last movement became the crowning peak and implemented in full Beethoven's poetic idea:

intellectual beroism as the ultimate and most spiritual form of beroism, as personlfied by The movement swelled and

swelled, radiating finally in a blinding light. Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv,

February 14 -Benjamin Bar-Am

Salvador Conde.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lorin Maazel opened its tour with the local premiere of Ari Ben-Shabtai's Magrephah, named after a musical instrument from the time of the Second Temple. Nobody knows how the instrument sounded, so the composer's imagination is at liberty to run wild.

And an imaginative work it is. especially in its abundant clash-ing and blending sonorities and varying tone colors, growing out of one long, drawn-out single tone to which it eventually returns after many unpredictable developments, thus closing an eventful circle.

Everything about this orcbestra is bright, sparkling, and alive. Maazel's brisk tempi injected into Mendelssohns's "Italian" Sym-phony a light, joyous drive forward, fresb and carefree yet never hurried.

Beyond this spirited way of playing; it was also transparent and polished to the smallest detail. Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 provided an opportunity for displaying the orchestra's glorious brass, powerful but also mellow and well-rounded.

Some naughtily flexible tempi in virtuoso renditions of a Brahms, Hungarian Dance and Bizet's L'Arlesienne highlighted a refined humor that is also a part of Manzel's and the orchestra's musical palette.

International Convention Center, Jerusulem, February 13 Ury Eppstein

FILIGREES No. 5, a new concertante for chamber orchestra by local composer Ben-Zion Orgad was premiered at the Sinfonietta Beersheba Classica Six series. The idiom is dissonant, yet tonal. Its convincing texture is constructed from contrapuntal interface between various "canollating"

melodic gestures. Violinist Guy Braunstein was classic in presentation and stage manner.

He brought precision as well as attractive phrasing and pacing to Bruch's well-known violin concerto in G minor.

Stepping in for ill-disposed music director Ury Mayer, Sinfonietta laurente maestro Mendi Rodan found in Richard Strauss's rarely heard Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme suite t1918), a perfect vehicle for orchestral expression.

He brought out all the piquant neo-Baroque figuration and brilliance and the score's colorful, romanoc registracion of instru-

Beersheba Conservatory, Max Stern

Milking Maeterlinck's mystique THE TEMPTATION OF

SAINT ANTHONY

By Maurice Masterlinck, Hebrew, Gerny matrice matteritice. Henrew, Gera Sandler, Direction, Mitto Buzakov, Set, Sasha Lishanaky. Costumes, Darva Lachovitzky, Lighting, Amir Brenner, Music, Effic Sheshanni, Make-up, Entmanuel Mesika, At Hasifriya Theater, Ramat Gan, Hebrew title, Haness shel Amonio Hakadosh.

... llan Miller Gustav Chen Alon . Roy Sasson Yaniv Sternfeld _ Udi Gil

Vague, pale, suave images, a twilit world images, a twilit world in which the characters are less dramatic personalities than disembodied broodings or longings." wrote critic Edmund Wilson of the plays of the Belgian symbolist poet and dramatist Maeterlinck (1862-1949).

Hasifriya's stage, draped in unearthly while, evokes the aura of this sinister limbo in a set that typifies the nightmare world of the Expressionist play. In this excellent production,

director Mitko Buzakov milks Maeierlinck's masque for its entertainment value as much as for its strange mystique. On the one hand the clash of bourgeois greed and materialism with pure spirituality and potent belief are

THEATER REVIEW NAOM! DOUDAL

painted in terms of confusion and fear. At the same time, the lesser figures in the drama are caricatured for comic relief.

Religious piery, personified by Neomi Promovitch as Virginia. the passionately pious maid, and llan Miller, as the remote, reclusive saint of the otle, are well performed in a sensitive duo of strikingly contrasted studies.

For the rest, Buzakov turns the annics of the bereaved family, the funeral rites, and subsequent resurrection of the old lady (Moriah Shlomit) into a farce.

This lends a satiric slant to the bizarre proceedings that makes Maeterlinck's exone metaphysic more palatable to contemporary audiences.

The staging is superbly orchestrated, exploiting every weird moment with the fullest dramaoc

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS ARTIST RABIN — GOODSYE FRIEND SOMETHING TO REMEMBER MURDER BALLADS VARIOUS ARTISTS MURDEH BALLADS IN THIS BLUE-GRAY LIGHT GOLD - GREATEST HITS MORNING GLORY THE CHILD IN YOU BEST OF-FIELDS OF GOLD BEST OF SIVAN SHAVIT YEHUDA POLITION OF THE OPERA SADE SADE SADE FILM SOUND TRACK BEE GEES FILM SOUND TRACK VARIOUS ARTISTS RJORK VOICES STORE POST VOICES YEHUDA POLIKER 5 16 REFE 21 10

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

Viva España, via two stirring local flamenco artists

Flamenco glittered and flashed in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem last week. Two Israeli women were, quite independently of each other, the cause.

Dalia Low, who lives and teaches in Tel Aviv. appeared at the Noga Theater in Tel Aviv (February 14, 15) and at the Henry Crown Hall of the Jerusalem Theater (February 17) with three outstanding Spanish guests and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. At the Rebecca Crown Auditorium of the Jerusalem Theater 4(Fehruary 13), Sharon Sagy, who lives and dances in Spain, was accompanied by a Spanish guitarist, an authentic flamenco singer and an Israeli super-flutist, Gilad Manor.

It is some time since Low danced here and she has never danced better. Always a beauti-

المحادث والمنظمين والمنظم والمنطم والمنظم والمن

DORA SOWDEN

ful performer, this time she added a passionate quality to her elegance. In El Amor Brujo ("Love the Magician") she was partnered by Miguel Angel, a splendid dancer who performed with her here 10 years ago. With the participation of two other exceptional dancers - Rafael Franco and Cesar Parra - they made the old tale of witchery and exorcism come to life with only half the stage to dance on, the other half being occupied by the 40-strong Israel Chamber Orchestra conducted by

The only prop was a wooden stool, and only

Low's expressive hands and arms evoked the

fire in the famous music by Manuel de Falla. Even by Flamenco standards, Low's costumes were remarkable. In a solo to Ravel's Pavane for a Dead Child, her excessively long-tailed gown almost stole the show.

Finally, the four dancers joined together again for Saint-Sacns's Havanaise with first violinist Elia Shulman and alto Bracha Kol for outstanding performances. Local flamenco guitarist Miguel Skirplayedbetween the dances.

Sagy took the stage by storm with her Zapateado - heel-tapping at terrific speed. Altering the tempi, ber virtuoso progress through the flamenco language and her stamina were astonishing.



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Tal, (day)_

Steinmetz family makes bid for Ampal

RACHEL NEIMAN

Bank Hapoalim currently owns

53.7% of Ampal and intends to reduce its holdings in the company to less than 25% in accordance with

the Brodet Report, which recom-mended that the banks drastically reduce their non-financial holdings.

The bank began reorganization

procedures in January and expects to complete its division by 1998

into four parts - bouseholds and general, private banking, business

As part of reorganization, Happalim is to reduce holdings in non-financial activities as recom-mended by the Brodet Report.

Hapoalim has reportedly been in

negotiation with other groups,

including Shamrock and a consor-

num beaded by Ted Arison of the

and conglomerates.

Claridge group.

DIAMOND mercbants Benny and Danny Steinmetz have made a bid to purchase 28.7 percent of Bank Hapoalim subsidiary Ampal for an esumated \$55 million.

Happalim yesterday officially announced it was entering negotiations with the Steinmetz family, following a board decision earlier this

Ampal American Corporation, a company incorporated in the US whose shares are traded on Wall Street, invests in Israeli real estate, communications and industry.

Investments include DSP Group, Mercury Interactive, Teledata. Carmel Containers, Moriah Hotels, Industrial Buildings, Pri Ha'emek and Sonol operator Granite

Loan guarantees approved to finance IAI project for Turks

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved \$410 million in loan guarantees to finance an Israel Aircraft Industries project for the Turkish Defense Ministry.

The project requires IAI to refurbish and upgrade 54 F-15 fighter planes for the Turkish Air Force, at a cost of some \$650 million.

 The deal will be financed entirely by loans from Israeli banks, which Turkey is to repay within five years after a two-year grace

This deal exposes the banks to risk twice over - the risk of a Turkish default and the risk that IAI However, the Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company

(IFTRIC) cannot insure a deal this The Treasury therefore decided to promote the deal by providing government guarantees for these loans, both because of the project's diplomatic importance and because of its financial importance to IAI.

The project is expected to turn a profit for the company. According to the Treasury, the banks' total risk exposure is expected to be only \$250 million, but it could be larger, because several of

the risk parameters are still It therefore agreed to guarantee 84% of any losses up to \$250m., 90% of losses between \$250m. and \$300m., 95% of losses between

\$300m. and \$350m., and 100% of losses over \$350m. The government will also fully guarantee a \$36m. deposit demand-

ed by the Turkish government as insurance that the work will be completed. In exchange for its guarantees,

the government will get a lien on IAI's assets, though this will be of lower priority than the banks' lien on these assets.

Finance Committee economic adviser Smadar Elhanani raised several questions about the agree-

These questions included where IAI's recovery plan stands, whether the company is giving the government any reciprocal guarantees that the work will be completed. whether at least part of the project could not be insured via IFTRIC, and whether it would not make sense to wait on the deal until a test flight has been successfully completed, since this is a precondition

of Turkey's.
In the end, however, the committee approved the deal unanimously.



Indian court ruling good news for Bezeq

THE Indian Supreme Court yes-terday dismissed a set of petitions challenging foreign investors bids for parts of the sub-continent's potentially lucrative telecommunications market.

This paves the way for multi-million dollar deals involving an assortment of companies, among whom Bezeq figures prominently. Bezeq had received no official notice to this effect as of last night, but it did inform the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange based on the wire report it received through *The*

Jerusalem Post. Bezeq owns 26 percent of HFCL-Bezeg Telecom.

lts partners include Himanchal Futuristic Telecommunications (HFCL), with 44%: Thailand's Shinawatra, with 15%; and India's Kotak Mahindra Finance, with 15%.

The consortium bas won the right to install conventional telephone infrastructure in three large Indian districts and a cellular phone system in another district.

A Bezeq spokesman said be expected a copy of the ruling would

and news agencies

be received in three or four days. Before reaching the court, the privatization program was well on its way to completion.

It was approved by the govern-ment of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1994 and got started last year.

It won broad public support in a country where fewer than one resident in 100 bas a phone line. The state-owned telecommunications monopoly was unable to cope with the demand.

However, opposition elements ued to Islam challenged the public tender that selected foreign investors to rebuild the telecommunications infrastructure, and were especially annoyed by Israel's involvement.

According to Reuters, India's Communications Minister Sukh Ram declared his stand was "vindi-cated" by the court decision. "Today's decision should be very good news, not only for Japanese

entering India," said Hiroo Shinozuka, managing director of National Parasonic, who is launch-ing a cellular phone system in New Delhi.

Opponents to privatization pre-sented 10 different legal petitions claiming that the tendering process had been flawed, with no regulator to supervise competition. They also said the existence of foreign compa-nies would endanger security by exposing telephone infrastructure to

stside control. HFCL-Bezeq Telecom had been the top bidder in nine of the nation's 20 regions by offering \$25 billion in license fees for the project - \$15b. more than the others combined. The deal could mean \$250 mil-

lion for Bezeq. The Indian government still must get through the upper house of par-liament a bill approving the

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to supervise telephone com-panies. This bill could be defeated, as opposition parties bave the majority in the house.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bezeq campaign net 22,000 new phone lines: More than 22,000 new phone lines were ordered from Bezeq during a special two-week campaign that ended last week; compared with an average of 3,500 orders during an ordinary two-week period.

Bezeq charged only NIS 295 for the installation of an additional line - about half the regular fee; the only condition

was that the subscriber already has a phone line. By the end of the year, the company aims at reaching a rate of 50 phone lines per 100 residents; today, it stands at 42 per 100.

Electra Consumer Goods has acquired a German agent for DM 4.8m. via Electra's French subsidiary Ace. The new Frankfurtbased subsidiary, Ace KlimaTechnic, markets Electra goods under the brand name Airwell.

Electra said annual turnover last year for the German agent was DM 15m., primarily from Airwell airconditioners. Electra intends to establish a chain of Ace KlimaTechnic stores in major German

Elron will invest \$2m. in Ornetics Technologies in return for 20 percent outstanding capital share, plus options to invest an additional \$2m. in order to increase its ownership in the company

Ornetics Technologies is based in San Jose, California, with research and development facilities here and a marketing subsidiary in Munich. The company specializes in CD management for company and organization-wide communications networks. CDs are used by organizations to store data bases.

Frenkel: No evidence of banks' wrongdoing toward kibbutzim

THE Bank of Israel has yet to find evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of an individual bank handling the kibbutzira's debts, Governor

Jacob Frenkel said yesterday.

In a wide-ranging discussion of major macro-economic issues – particularly the battle against inflation, the current account and trade deficits, the privatization process and foreign currency reform -Frenkel also said that reopening the discussion over the kibbutzim's debts would be unjustified procedu-rally and potentially detrimental economically.

Insinuating that the election season bas influenced some of the media fanfare surrounding the Procacela-Report — which has not—by adopt a long term policy which been published but to known to would aim at a three percent annual attege that the banks ever-initiated inflation rate. This, he said would

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

multi-million-dollar debts - Frenkel said the kibbutzim should remember a re-examination of their debts might also entail a reconsideration of the write-off deals they and the banks reached earlier this decade. An individual kibbutz might have reason - and certainly the right - to take its creditor to court, but the central bank has not received a sin-

gle document which gives it reason to suspect any systematic wrongdoing by the banks concerning the kibbutzim debts, he said. Regarding inflation, Frenkel called on the government to official-

provide the stability which is essendurable growth.

As for the current account deficit. Frenkel said an administrative devaluation of the shekel — as has long been demanded by some industrialists - would be tautamount to abolishing price increases by "declaring zero inflation."

He called on exponers, some of

W. MONT

Commission of the state of the

AND METALS

whom have been investing energies in a battle for a cheaper shekel, to focus on cost cutting so that balance sheets would reflect monetary reali-

ties, and not the other way around.

Regarding privatization, Frenkel said that while he found the government's stated policy sound, he neventheless thought the pace of its implementation was unacceptably

Orbotech reports increase in 4rth quarter, annual net profits

ORBOTECH bas announced a 39 percent rise in fourth quarter net profits to \$3.72 million from 2.68m, during the same period in

Quarterly revenues went up to \$34.9m. from \$32.49m., while earnings per share rose to \$0.29 from \$0.22.

Annual net profits jumped to

RACHEL NEIMAN

\$15m. from \$9.2m. in 1994. Revenues went up to \$129.45m. from \$117.95m. Earnings per share went up to \$1.17 from \$0.74.

The company said financial results reflected strong demand for

its PCB AOI products. These products registered an 18% rise in sales in the quarter and 30% during the year

Sales to the Pacific region grew In the fourth quarter, Orbotech introduced an automated optical inspection system for LCD flat pan-

Apple, Motorola set Mac OS license pact

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuter) - ating system.

Apple Computer Inc., struggling to The move comes as Apple, under rebound in a fiercely competitive market, said yesterday it has licensed its vaunted Macintosh operating system to Motorola Inc. in

its broadest such agreement yet.

The deal enables Schaumburg. Illinois-based Motorola to license and also sub-license the software to other computer makers.

Motorola's Computer Group will license the Mac operating system for its computer systems designed around the PowerPC chip, adding a popular consumer-oriented operating system to its computers, which currently only offer higher-end soft-

Motorola will also be able to sublicense the Mac system to other computer manufacturers to which it sells motherboards - the core circuit board of a computer - or computer systems that can run the Mac oper-

which could grow to \$60m., with an overall potential of \$350m.

its new chief executive Gilbert Amelio, is trying to cut expenses and turn its troubled computer operations around in the face of increasing competition at home and abroad.

Israel-Morocco Trade and Industry Bureau president Shaul Beu-Simhon (center) introduces

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan (left) to visiting Moroccan businessman Isaac Marciano dur-

ing yesterday's opening of the bureau in Tel Aviv. Dayan said Israel would provide Morocco with

humanitarian aid to help overcome damage from floods there during January. Ben-Simhon said 17

Israeli companies are currently operating in Morocco, working with local businessmen or inde-

pendently, and that Israeli exports to Morocco today totaled some \$50 million worth of goods,

Apple lost \$69 million in the quarter ended in December and expects to post an even larger loss in the current quarter, in part due to the effects of customer uncertainty in recent weeks over whether the company would remain independent or not amid widely reported merger talks, and a continued decline in its profit margins.

Apple said it expects Motorola will be able to grow the Mccintosh operating system platform by enabling computer makers supplied by Motorola with motherboards to sell a Macintosh-compatible computer without signing a licensing

Amelio, Apple's newly appointed chairman and chief executive, told reporters on a conference call that the pact represents the beginning of a second and more aggressive phase

(Hanoch Grizitzky/Israel Sun)

of Apple's licensing program.
"We feel the best way to evangelize it ... is through this kind of a program," Amelio said.

Amelio said the licensing talks with Motorola were well underway when he took over at Cupertino, California-based Apple on February when former Chief Executive Michael Spindler was ousted by the company's board.

Joseph Guglielmi, a vice presi-dent at Motorola and general manger of its Computer Products Group, said Motorola was in active with several potential licensees, but he declined to be more

'It speaks very highly of Apple and their commitment to the open platform that they have allowed us to sublicense it," Guglielmi said. He also said the deal was a great opportunity to further the PowerPC

The now-struggling PowerPC alliance was formed by Apple, International Business Machines Corp., and Motorola almost five years ago to develop another chip architecture that would rival the dominance of the Intel Corp. archi-

Apple has so far been the biggest volume seller of systems with its Power Macintoshes that use the PowerPC chip.

Motorola develops systems and motherboards that it resells to other computer makers with the PowerPC chip. Motorola's systems currently run Microsoft Corp.'s NT and IBM's version of UNIX - AIX used mostly in high-end worksta-

New tax brackets

AS a result of the semi-annual cost of living wage adjustment of 2.4 percent that will be reflected in February paychecks, the Treasury has updated tax brackets and tax credit points by 2.3% as follows. The adjustment will result in a net monthly salary increase of between NIS 60-135. Jennifer Friedlin

Tax rate 15% 30% 45% 50%	January '96 up to 3,020 3021 - 7,950 7,951 - 14,400 14,401 and above	February 46 up to 3,080 3,081 - 8,110 8,111 - 14,960 14,691 and above
Tax credit point Tax thresholds	130	133
Single .	1,950	1,995
Working woman	2,438	2.383
Married with wife not working		2.882
Woman with one child	3,315	3.203

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.2.96) Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.2.96) CHECKS AND 4.7857 0.8210 2.0836 1.9117 2.4382 0.4498 0.6884 0.6884 0.6825 2.2351 2.3350 0.8018 1.0414 2.0472 1.9530 4.4304 0.9662 3.9824 4.9271 2,9760 1,9256 2,6525 0,4930 0,5576 0,6679 2,2542 0,8041 1,0483 3,0696 1,9709 elgian tranc (10) Luttian achilling Littian ike (1000) Ordanien dinar Syptian pound SOURCE: BANK LEUM

AGAN, Makhteshim to buy stake in Herbitechnica

AGAN Chemicals and Makhteshim Chemical Works announced yesterday they will purchase a 49 percent stake in a Herbitechnica, a Brazilian pesticide distributorship, for \$20 million.

Makhteshim owns 47 of Agan's outstanding

capital share. Herbitechnica's turnover in 1995 was \$60 million, with turnover this year expected to increase to \$80m. Through subsidiaries, Agan and Makhteshim will purchase 49% of the distributorship, in equal

RACHEL NEIMAN

parts, from its present shareholders in return for a \$20m. cash payment.
If 1995-1996 profits rise more than \$12m. the

partners will pay an additional sum of not more than \$2.45m. If Herbitechnica's net profits between 1995-1999 rise above \$61.5m., the partners will pay out an additional sum of not more than \$7.35m.

Agan and Makhteshim will have the option to purchase up to 60% of the distributorship in the year 2001. If cumulative net profits in the years 1995-1999 are less than \$25m., the options will be handed over without payment.

If not profits rise above \$25m., the partners will pay the Brazilian company a sum to be determined based on shareholder's equity as of December 31, 1999.

Separate debt deal possible for UKM, Kibbutz Ha'artzi

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE banks and Treasury will sign a separate debt arrangement plan with Kibbutz Ha'artzi and United Kibbutz Movement (UKM) if Kibbutz Ha'artzi continues to delay the signing of the agreement. according to sources in the UKM. The kibbutzim, Treasury and banks will begin marathon talks this

morning in an attempt to sign the

kibbutz debt arrangement by the end

of the month. Sources in UKM said it is ready to sign the supplementary arrange-

However, Kibbutz Ha'artzi, has claims against the Treasury and banks which have not been resolved and are likely to delay the imple-

mentation of the arrangement. The UKM emphasized that it is interested in signing the debt arrangement plan as soon as possible out of fear that the findings of

A UKM spokesman said the movement does not object to individnal kibbutzim checking their debts, adding that the movement will consider how, and if, to help these kibbutzim at a meeting next the Proceacia Report, which sug-gest the kibbutzim's debts to the banks were inflated, may lead to its

The kibbutz debt agreement involves write-offs totaling about NIS 6 billion for 127 kibbutzim.

JOHN IDS TELESANK. DIAL 03-51290111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.) ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Key Representative Bates US dollar ... NIS 3.0950 - 0,32% Sterling NIS 4.7957 + 0.26% Mark ____NIS 2.1425 +1.33%

Japan trade surplus with US lowest in 12 years

TOKYO (Reuter) - Japan's trade surplus with the United States fell to its lowest level for 12 years in January, perhaps the best present Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashi-LONDON moto could give President Bill Clinton ahead of their summit this week. -0.25 The Finance Ministry said on Monday that Japan's customacleared aurplus with the US dropped to \$1.55 billion in January from \$3.19b. a year earlier. It was the smallest surplus since January 1984, when \$1.26b. was posted. The overall surplus also fell sharply, becoming a fraction of its former self at \$467.08 million from a revised figure of \$2.75b. for a year earlier. It was the seventh consecutive month the overall surplus had declined.

Japan'a hefty trade surpluses have often been a source of tension with its major trading partners, and the US has been the

tourist chiefs out on a brave face

yesterday, saying they hoped the

second fatal IRA bomb blast to

hit London in nine days would.

not damage the country's multi-

But some of the tourists caught

io Sunday night's blast in the

heart of London's theatreland

said they would be heading home

and not returning to Britain until

major effect on tourism to Brit-

ain. Visitor numbers have in-

Terrorism has not yet had a

the violence ends.

billion-pound tourist industry.

structural change. That change has come, analysts

"We've obviously seen a structural break in terms of imports. Imports are finding it much easier to come into the Japanese economy." said Jason James, a strate-

gist at James Capel Pacific. Analysts said that while surpluses were usually small in January because New Year holidays tended to cap exports, this year's surplus was even smaller than last year, when exports were battered by the Kobe earthquake.

"We can see the effect of the last June's car trade pact between Japan and the United States,' aaid Kyohei Morita, an economist at Nomura Research

The pact, which followed bitter wrangling between the countries, saw Japan promise to make more efforts to open its market and

most vocal in its demands for Japanese car makers agree to increase output overseas. Vehicle exports were down 11.5 percent in January from a year earlier while imports jumped a huge

> Although January's trade surplus plunge was certain to help create a cordial meeting between Hashimoto and Clinton in Santa Monica, California, on Friday, it would prohably not dispel all trade tensions, analysts said.

"The general skepticism about the export dependency of the Japanese economy is going to linger," said Shunsuke Motani, senior economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

While specific trade issues are not on the agenda for the meeting, the two are still at odds over the photographic film, air cargo, insurance and semi-conductor

However, the outlook is for further declines in the surplus, at

and domestic tourism market,

which last year earned a total of

£36 billion (\$52 billioo), or 5.5

percent of Britain's Gross Do-

Sell said he expected 24 million

people to visit Britain this year,

up from 21.3 million last year,

and spend £12 hillion (\$1g bil-

lion). The London Tourist Board

(LTB) said 21 million foreigners

least for the time being.

"There's no change in overall direction," said Nomura Research's Morita, who said he expected another significant drop for February.

Some also predicted the rate of import growth would continue to rise, citiog a cyclical upturn in the economy. "[It's] going to accelerate from here on. We have a gradually strengthening Japanese economy, albeit still not extremely strong, and we have the rest of the world tending to slow down a

bit," said James. But Morita disagreed, saying that although strong demand for semiconductors and computers would keep imports high, the rate of growth was unlikely to increase all that much.

"The recovery is not one extending to every sector. Consumers might be buying a computer but this probably means they are not buying something else.'

the same effect as the 1991 Gulf

War, which cut tourism

this year because people from the

US and Far East markets come as

part of package tours which are

booked far ahead," Rohertson

said. "But some Europeans may

decide to stay away this

The scene of Sunday's explo-

sion lies near the heart of the

capital's entertainment center at

Covent Garden, home to hun-

dreds of leading theaters, hotels

Traders said that investors

feared further bomb blasts could

disrupt tourism but that direct ev-

idence of a downturn was needed

before such share price falls were

Tourist officials fear the blasts

could especially deter big spend-

ers such as Americans and

'We think we will be all right

worldwide.

summer."

and restaurants.

justified.

Two-sided trading

Fear of hike in rates pushes indexes lower

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Two-Sided index

INDEXES fell for a second day yesterday amid concern that the Bank of Israel will raise interest

"The market expects increasing rates," said Arye Maoz, vice president at the Tel Aviv firm Central Securities. "This pessimism, this fear. is generating tension in the market.

The Bank of Israel last increased rates on February 1, when the rate at which it lends to banks rose to 14 percent from 13.7%.

"Wall Street has become an increasingly important factor in Tel Aviv," added Maoz. "Presidents Day [in the US] means no Wall Street activity.'

The Maof Index fell 0.24 percent to 208.78, and the Two-Sided Index decreased 0.25% to 200.67. Of 99g issues trading across the exchange, nearly twice as many shares fell as rose for a second day.

Almost NIS 60 million worth of shares traded, NIS 10.8m. below Sunday's level and about half the average trading last month.

Offsetting losses, state-controlled phone company Bezeq rose 1% after India's Supreme Court ruled in favor of the government's decision to issue licenses for basic telephone services.

The court decision paves the way for Bezeq's participation in providing phone services in three regions in India.

Other gaining shares included Clal Industries Ltd., which rose 0.25%. Clal said it was negotiating to buy a 50% stake in the dairy business owned by kibbutz Yotfata for NIS 100m.

The purchase, said Maoz, "will

Maof index

will be expanding in the profitable food industry.

Clal Industries' parent company, holding company Clal (Israel) Ltd., fell 0.5%.

Bank Hapoalim closed unchanged after announcing it was negotiating with Benny and Danny Steinmetz to sell a 25% stake in Ampal-American Israel Corp., an Israeli investment company traded in New York.

The hank would not specify the transaction's value, saying in a statement that it would be "higher than the market value."

Ampal's share's closed at 61/2 on Friday, unchanged from Thursday.

Bank Hapoalim currently holds 53.7% of Ampal, it said.

Chemical shares rose after Makhteshim Chemical Works Ltd. and Agan Chemical Mannfacturers Ltd, announced they had jointly purchased a 49 percent stake in Herbitechoica, a Brazilian pesticide company, for \$20m. in a hid to expand their business in South America.

Makhteshim rose 0.75%, Agan went up 0.5% and Israel Chemicals rose 0.5%.

Koor Industries owns 65 percent of Makhteshim, and Makhteshim owns 47% of Agan.

Shares in Koor closed unchanged. So did Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd.; Israel Corp.; Dead Sea Works; and both IDB Holding Corp. and IDB Development Corp.

Declioiog shares included Osem investment Ltd., which fell for a second day, losing 1.25%. Bank Leumi Le-Israel BM fell 1.5%; Clal Electrooic Iodustries fell 2.5%; Elite Industries Ltd. fell 3%, and Tadiran, a Koor subbe-good for Clal Industries; they sidiary, fell 1.75%. (Bloomberg)

creased steadily over the years, affected only by major internared, double-decker passenger bus, a symbol of London tourism.

tional conflicts like the Gulf War," said Anthony Sell, head of the British Tourist Authority. "Economic factors such as exchange rates... are more likely to affect tourism trends, which at

the time look very positive for Britain," Sell said in a statement.

However, tourists shocked by

LONDON (Reuter) - British Sunday's blast voiced concern crown of the combined foreign over the safety of London.

An American woman, clearly shaken by the experience, said: "We only came for a weekend. It's my first time in London. I won't be coming back intil things have quieted down,"

Mark Johnson, 25, a Canadian law student who was drinking up in a bar just opposite the blast, said he was "scared and frightened" and would cut short his visit to London.

At least one person was killed on Sunday when an Irish Republican Army bomh destroyed a A huge IRA bomb in east Lon-

don killed two people on February 9, ending a 17-month guerrilla cease-fire, and a bomh left in a telephone booth in the theatre district last Thursday was defused.

Loodon is the jewel in the

"We've lived with incidents like these for the last 10 years and we haven't been able to track a

would visit London.

mestic Product.

correlatioo between terrorist attacks and tourism," LTB spokeswoman Louise Wood said. "If this does affect tourism, it will be a tragedy. Loodon is still perceived as a safe and friendly city," she said.

Diane Robertson of Madame Tussauds' waxworks, London's most popular tourist attractioo, said the attacks would not have

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London tourist chiefs hope bomb won't hit trade

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Slide in world bond markets unsettles FTSE

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON - UK shares finished mostly lower, unsettled by a slide in world bond prices. Trading volumes were light, however, as many participants stayed on the sidelines due to the closure of the US markets for the Presidents Day holiday. The FTSE 100 index closed 26.6 points lower at

FRANKFURT - German shares, nocertain ahead of this week's expected release of a key money supply report, bowed to pressure from the weak German debt market and slumping dollar to close sharply down on Monday. The 30-share DAX index ended floor trade down 30.44 points at 2,398.58. In post-bourse trade the DAX index stood at 2,387.60.

PARIS - French shares closed lower in the wake of falling bond prices and the dollar and dealers expect the CAC-index to test support at 1,9t0 and 1,890, turnover was limited hecause of the US holiday. The CAC-40 index closed down 12.76 points or 0.65 percent to 1,939.74.

ZURICH - Swiss shares gradually improved from an opening slump but still closed slightly lower than Friday's finish, prices were kept down by marked losses in futures on Swiss government bonds following a weak showing of US treasury bonds oo Friday. sagging German Bund futures and the easing US dollar also exerted pressure. The All-share SPI index lost 8.17 points or 0.38 per-

TOKYO - Tokyo share prices ended lower in thin volume yes-

terday as many investors took to the sidelines, unable to find new targets amid various uncertainties, such as directions of the yen and interest rates, and prospects of large equities issues hy banks later this year.

The 225-share Nikkei average ended dowo 81.52 points at

HONG KONG - The Hong Kong stock market is closed from yesterday for the Chinese New Year holidays and will reopen on Thursday. On Friday, the Hang Seng Index rose 123.18 points to SYDNEY - The Australian

share market followed the Dow down to close sharply lower yesterday with weaker local bonds and futures markets exacerbating the fall. The all ordinaries index closed 31.80 points lower at JOHANNESBURG - South

African gold shares retraced earlier gains to end marginally weaker amid nervous scotiment creeping in and industrials continued to plunge on a soft bond market.

Dealers said golds were losing ground amid fear that foreigners would sell. They said the market was caudous and would remain so until the rand stabilized. The all-share index lost 51 points to 6.791.4, iodustrials shed 79.2 points to 8,449.1 and golds were

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK		0.4469.73	71.89/92	0.8134/37	3.4452/57
STERLING	2.2362/72	~	160.71/63	1.8184/08	7.7032/98
YEN	1.3907/18	0.6217,23	_	1.1311/2a	4.7913/56
SFr	122.85/00	0.5492/99	88.36/4N	-	4.2326/79
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UEFA scraps

RICHARD ZAACKS

HAPOEL Jerusalem fell to secand place in the National Basketball League last night when it lost 74-71 to Hapoel Holon in Holon.

The loss gave Maccabi Tel Aviv (14-1, its only loss to Hapoel Jerusalem) undisputed possession of first place in the standings, and Holon fans sweet revenge over a Jerusalem club led hy Adi Gordnu, who alnug with Jerusalem teammates Doron Shefa and Pini Levy played in Holon last year.

They also gained revenge against Jerusalem patron Nahum Manbar, who took the three players and his sponsor-ship money to Jerusalem, after backing Hnlon (6-9) last season. Both teams opened the game

with fast and slappy play, with each side having its share of turnovers and missed shots. After seven minutes the score was tied at 15, hut Holon's Milton Wagner soon set the game's tempn by huilding a small and confident lead for his team, which they maintained right until the end of the first half, which ended with Holon ahead, 45-40,

Coach Pini Gershon's cloh was unable to score a basket until four minutes into the secand half, and improved little afterward.

Nnrris Coleman and Shefa were nnn-factors for Hapoel Jerusalem, while Eli Baloul did everything he could for Holon, grabbing rebounds nn hoth sides of the court and scoring 10 points in lead Holnn to their best lead of 67-57, seveo minutes into the second half. From here on, Jerusalem could only try to cut Holon's lead, closing the gap tn 74-71 with seven sec-

But with the stage set for last gasp dramatics, Jerusalem's attempt to salvage the game failed as Gordnn and Coleman missed three-point

Hnloo's Wagner topped the scorers with 21 points, Balool had 20 and Derrick Hamilton chipped io with 15 points.

Gordon led Jerusalem (13-2) with 20 poiots, fallawed by Billy Thompson with 15. National Basketball League

Maccabi Tel Aviv Hapoel Safed Hapoel Tel Aviv Hapoel Holon Hapoel Ellat Maccabi Ramal Gan

Fredericks sets 200-meter mark

LIEVIIN. France (API - Frankle Fredericks off Namibia took advantage of the conditions and laid claim on the title of fastest

Fredericks became the first man to run 200 meters indoors under 20 seconds as he finished in 19.92 seconds Sunday at the Lievin International meet.



ON TOP OF HIS GAME - Sampras returns the ball to Andre Agassi during the finals of the Sybase Open Sunday.

Sampras regains No.

SAN JOSE (Reuter) - Pete Sampras blew past Andre Agassi 6-2, 6-2 and soared in the top of the world's rankings in winning the \$328,000 Sybase Open in San Inse on Sunday. Sampras took nver the No.1

spot from Austrian Thomas Muster. Agassi remains nt No. 3. "The number one is just icing on the cake," Sampras said. "I played as well as I could today."

Known as the game's most effective server. Sampras showed the fans at the sold-out San Jose Arena that he is improving from the baseline, as he consistently out-stroked a volatile, angry Agassi.

"There's some matches where ynu go through ups and downs, but tonight everything just clicked. Sampras said. "I was hitting the ball clean. I chuldn't have played better. Everything just jelled. I didn't serve that well but I bit my grouodstrokes as well as I ever hit them."

Agassi, who received a point penalty in the second set for swearing at chair umpire Richard Kaufman, tipped his hat to his

"I got outplayed and didn't raise my level at the right moments," Agassi said. "But nothing Pete does surprises me. He was hitting the ball big off the ground and only made a few errors. He not nnly played 100 percent of his level, but he played 100 percent of the right points.

Sampras set the tone of the match early with devastating running forehands and deep cross-court backhands that forced Agassi to press himself to hit winners. He broke Agassi with blaz-ing crosscourt forehand winner in the second game of the first set. Agassi got a break point in the. seventh game; but dumped a backhand return into the net. Sampras broke Agassi again to

Then the fireworks began. Agassi slammed a ball into the crowd and received a warning from referee Richard Kaufman. After the two played one point

on Sampras serve, Agassi loudly swore at Kaufman. The chair umpire didn't hear him, but linesperon Marie Smith, who was standing behind Agassi, did. She walked up to the chair and told Kaufman, who gave Agassi the point penalty. Agassi then let a string of epithets fly at Smith.

"It was real simple," Agassi said. "It started when the crowd was booing after I hit the ball into the stands. I swore loud enough for someooe to hear me. Then she went and told Kaufman and that really pissed me off. Then I really let her have it."

After being broken to go down 0-2 to the next game, Agassi, now, on the other side of the court, rocketed a ball in Smith's direc-

tioo that loudly bit the hackstop.

But the 25-year-old received nn

A fired-up Agassi had his best chance to break in the third game. but just missed a backhand crosscourt return. At 2-4, the Las Vegan has Sampras on the ropes 15-40, but Sampras responded with two bullet service winners, an ace and deep second serve to win the game,

The 20 percent of the time when I didn't return well was on some crucial points," Agassi said. That's where I have to get rhythm. If I have three chances to hreak in two sets, I would at least expect to win one set."

Agassi fought off three match points on his own serve at 2-5, but Sampras timed op the heat oo his service game and won the match when Agassi over hit a service return. Pete s they toughest person to come from behind on, life tough-

est person to break, to hold serve

on, everything," Agassi said.

further penalties.

on Saturday.

Amir Turjeman.
Tottenham's Ronny Roscothal, Israel's usual player to the No. 11

foreign player restrictions

LONDON (Reuter) - UEFA yesterday backed away from a con-frontation with the European Commission when it scrapped restrictions on foreign players.

appearing in its club competitions. But European soccer's govern-ing body said it was confident survivors in this season's Champions' Cap, Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup would adhere to their voluntary agreement to retain the "3+2" restrictions for the rest of

this season's campaigns.

The European Court ruled at the end of the Bosman case in December that UEFA transfer fee rules and restrictions on the number of non-national players in teams infringed EU law.

The ruling left UEFA and Brussels on a collision course, the Commission warning the contineut's soccer's power brokers that it would take "necessary measures" if it did not comply.

But after lengthy talks in London, UEFA official David Will said: "UEFA has no intention to do anything but act within the

UEFA officials had met representatives of all clubs still involved in their three compentions at a meeting in Geneva last week. Views expressed there led to UEFA's decision on foreigners. Under the 3+2 rule clubs can field nnly three foreign players

plus two "assimilated" foreigners. While UEFA backed away from a battle with the Commission, its presideot Lenoart Johannson made it clear he was unhappy with the EC's "hostile attitude" over the Bosman ramifications.

"We belong to the European Unioo and we obeyed the laws," he said.

"I would have preferred the EC to have been polite and not always come with threats. It's a very hostile attitude they have taken and one which I very much regret. I thought they were there to serve

"I don't care who is the winner and who is the loser, only that we are pragmatic and we look for solutions. Will said that ending foreign

player restrictions left UEFA with problems for the future. "The 3+2 and transfer rules were there for the benefit of football and we have to somehow

nbserve completely new concepts

within the law," he said. The transfer system has evolved over 100 years, nationality rules have been in existence for at least 30 years and it will take time to replace these."

UEFA'S executive committee yesterday set up an investigation to look into alleged irregularities in club soccer in the Netherlands, France, Wales and Yugoslavia.

Harazi doubtful for tomorrow's friendly

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL striker Ronnen Harazi will have to undergo a late fitness test for an injured ankle this morning to see whether he can take any part in tomorrow's friendly international against Lithuania in Haifa. Harazi appears unlikely to play in tomorrow afternooo's match at Kiryat Eliezer, after suffering an injury during Betar Jerusalem's weekend league match with Maccahi Jaffa

If Harazi does not play, coach Shlomo Scharf is expected to move star midfielder Haim Revivo up into the striker's posi-tico where he will play alongside

shirt has not been called up for the

Israel began its training camp ahead of the match in Haifa yesterday, with 17 players included in the squad.

One of the local players bound to attract much attention is defender Gadi Brumer of Maccabi Tel Aviv, who according to yesterday's Yediot Aharonot is being considered as a possible buy by Manchester United.

According to the report, United's chief talent scout Les Kershaw bas been sent from Manchester by manager Alex: Ferguson for a better look at Brumer. United is seeking a player to fill the central defender's role and Ferguson apparently thinks that Brumer may fit the

Bewilderment remains as local soccer coverage diversifies

AFTER years of bickering, local TV stations. Channel 1 in particular, have come bitten off more than it could chew when to the realization that there is plenty nf sport out there even for 30 channels - 10

times the number that exist locally. The tug-of-war which used to exist between the factions, mainly Channels 1, 2 and 5 are gone, as are the days when -Channel 1 in particular - used to buy up broadcasting rights just so that the other hidders wouldn't get their hands nn the material, even if Channel I had no possibility or wish in air that which they had

Happily for us viewers, things are now different and each of the players on the TV sports field has settled into a set local broadcast routine: Channel 1 has Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball, the national team's soccer matches and Second Division soccer, Channel 2 broadcasts Natinnal League soccer, and cable's Channel 5 concentrates on National League basket-

There were fears that Channel 2 had wan the rights to show Nationa League soccer at the beginning of last season.

The new commercial station had just stripped Israel TV of its begemony in local soccer and had promised us better coverage.

Ynram Arbel - persona non grata at Channel 1 - was to be the main front man for the new venture and the independent technical crews promised tn give the TV fan a better view of the Natinnal League.

Last season, the crews began covering all the fixtures, with one featured match being shown live, in its entirety, starting at 6 pm.

It is important to point nut that in previous years, Channel 1 had also covered all matches, but at that time the National League had fewer teams, either 12 or 14. The pre-action hype was huge. After all,

Channel 2 had paid a reported \$30 million for a three-year deal and it wasn't going to let it go unnoticed.

The action would start on a Saturday lunch time with a half-hour preview show bosted by Tsofit Grant, wife of then Maccabi Tel Aviv cnach, now with Hapoel Haifa. There were plenty of interesting features and background pieces about the players. This season the program has been cut back substantially and is a much drier 20-minute preview.

The main game at 6 pm is commentated by Arbel at the end of which he would nften be whisked away by helicnpter in time to arrive in the studio for the summary program, The 91st Minute.

The program underwent many changes in style and the regular studio staff changed very often. Arbel appeared to be the nuly permanent fixture on the show.

There were many technical hitches too, provoking no little scorn from viewers and critics alike.

This season, Arbel added the considerable verbal talents of Arye Maliniak, a former basketball coach and writer and commentator to the show. While Maliniak's sporting credentials

are not in doubt, he is nevertheless a basketball, not a soccer expert. True, his light-hearted approach is always a boon on any TV show, but the fact that he was needed as a co-host for a soccer show perhaps states the obvious about the number nf telegenic personalities who can inspire a show of this sort trippingly off the

Is that why so many of the "experts" called upon to give us their insightful opinion on matters which do not occupy the main part of their lives are either politicians or academics?

After getting into its groove, Arbel's show has turned into a slick program, but

it is nevertheless very similar to the old Mishak Hashabat which used to he Channel 1's sports flagship

Now that the local club soccer has been split between two channels, with Channel 1 broadcasting Division 2 games, there is a strange situation which will andoubtedly become more evident towards the end of the season, when the promntion and relegation battles rage to the full.

Admittedly, both stations give results and tables of both leagues, but the chance that one will show action regarded as prized property by the other is as likely as Arbel joining forces with Yoash Alroey back at Channel 1.

Unfortunately, we the viewers will be in a state of bewilderment when the end of the season arrives. For come April-May, we will have to flick between channels in order to catch up nn the action, unless we want in rely only on the verbal accounts given by the experts.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Forest-Spurs game abandoned

A driving snow blizzard ended the Nottingham Forest-Tottenham FA Cup fifth round game after only 14 minutes at the City Ground yesterday, causing even more chaos to the Cup program. Snow had been falling before the game but referee Gary Willard decided it was worth starting. But it became heavier as the game wore on, and even the introduction of a red ball for a white one made little difference as strong winds made conditions near impossible to play in.

Women footballers in league of their own The Israel Football Association decided yesterday to establish a local women's league and to ask FIFA in include the side in the World Cup qualifying competitinn.

Local golf roundup

Yaron Arbell and Katriel Springer won this weekend's better ball stableford competition at the Caesarea Golf Club with 46 points. In second place were David Adelman and Norma Kaufman at 44, followed by Chuck Shaikowitz and Clive Josset also with 44, but with an inferior back nine.

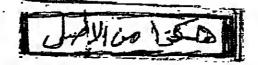
The best individual score of the day was set by senior Lionel Phillips who had a 4 over Gross 41 on the front nine but burned up the back nine holes with a 3 under par 33. For the day he had 11 pars and two eagles.

Local lawn bowls action

The National "President Pairs" Competition concluded on the weekend at the Ra'anana Club, and in the women's section it was Kiryat Onn's Maya Van Creveld and Shelly Haviv who came through in a cliffhanger 22-20 first-place win against Ra' anana's Shirley Kowarsky and Fay Tann.

In a one-sided men's comest, Faz Kusman and Ivan Israel (Kfar Hamaccabiah) won 19-9 against Ra'anana's Itz Shamos and Kelly Saacks. Norman Spira

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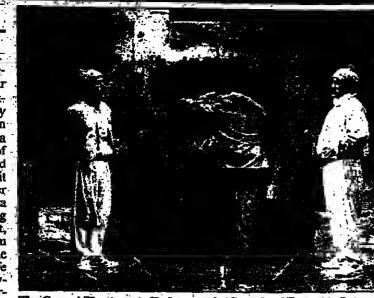
HELEN KAYE

DISTINGUISHED conductor and Verdi specialist Sir Edward Downes will conduct the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion and the New Israeli Opera Choir in the NIO revival of Nabucca which enjoyed enormous success when it premiered in December-1994. Bass Paata Burchuladze will sing Zaccarie the High Priest, and haritone Alexandru Agache will sing the title role in this story of strife between temporal and heavenly power. A run of 10 per-

the Tel Aviv Performing Arts

Center at 8.

::



formances starts tonight at The Cameri Theater sets Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Errors' in Beirut.

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Bat-Dor Dance Company is presenting tonight a mixed program at its Tel Aviv theater

featuring Ivan Feller-Ducach's athletic and

visually striking "Enigma," Ania Brod's intrigu-

mg "Head of the Shoe" and Mauricin Wainrot's

energetic "Tam-Bu-La," danced to contempo-

rary African music performed, nn tape, by the

TELEVISION

TOM GROSS

LAST week, the fast-moving suspense series

about weird paranormal happenings, The X-

Files, notched up its half century of shows with

its 50th episode screenedhere. The program, in

which people regularly burst into flames or dis-

appear into black holes, has become cult week-

ly late-night viewing on Channel 2, attracting

some 600,000 viewers per episode, a very high

In tonight's episode (nr "chapter"), titled "If a

man can kill by lightning," agents Mulder and

Scully (maintaining the usual sexual tension

between them that helps gives this show its

edge) investigate a series of murders connected

to a mysterious power possessed by a young

boy. It's highly entertaining stuff and surprisingly believable, even though as usual the story

glosses over the precise physics of the phenom-

ena the characters experience. "The truth is

somewhere," as the program's opening credit

states every week. Or maybe not. (23:05).

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THEATER

HELEN KAYE

SHAKESPEARE in Beirut? You bet! Cameri artistic director Omri Nitzan has directed a sophisticated, witty and impudent Comedy of Errors which extols the benefits of peace without ever sermonizing. Dan Almagor's transla-tion brings the jokes into the '90s and Dawn Nadel has reconverted them back into English. Unmissable. Tonight at 8:30 on the Cameri main stage. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

RENOWNED British countertenor Michael Chance is here for a series of concerts, lectures and master classes. Tomorrow and Wednesday, Chance teaches a masterclass at the Jerusalem Music Center (10 a.m.-1). Wednesday evening at the Jerusalem Music Center Chance presents a lecture-demonstration about the artistry of the countertenor, on Thursday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem, as part of the Authentica early-music series, he presents a recital of music by Purcell and his contemporaries. He repeats the program Saturday at the Nnga Theater in Jaffa. 8:30. In all these performances Chance is accompanied by Maggie Cole at the harpsichord.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise

8:30 Literatura 8:55 Arithmetic 9:25 Young children's programs 10:00 Family relations 10:30 Litarature 10:55 Franch 11:10 Math 11:20 Science 11:35 English 11:50 Open Studio: Graffitl 12:20 Science and technology 12:40 Geography 13:00 Australian plant life 13:30 Stories about animals 13:45 Kitty Cat and Tommy 14:00 A Thousand and One Americas 14:25 Castons 15:00 Americas 14:25 Cartoons 15:00 Current affairs

E CHANNEL 1

15:32 Captain Planet - cartoon 15:32 Captain Flanet — Cartoon 15:55 Boot Street Band — BBC school comedy 16:20 Youth Court 16:59 A New Evening 17:35 Hai Zap — with animals and pets 18:15 News

in English ARABIC PROGRAMS

Dishey film 14:00 Open Cards — young people's talk show 15:00 The Little Mermaid 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshet 17:30 First Love wall half heshel 17:30 first bove-romantic game show for youngsters 18:00 Ruby - talk show 19:00 Lingo - TV game show 19:30 Comedy Store 20:00 News 20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel - soap opera 21:15 Fact -llana Dayan's investigative program 22:00 Gov Night - comedy 23:05 The X-Files - suspense series 00:00 News 00:05 Night Encounters interview show with Kobi Medan 00:35 Anna Lee 02:25 Nurses 02:50 Poem of the Day

JORDAN TV

10:00 Thumbelina - cartoon 10:55 The Crystal Maze 11:45 The Bob Morrison Show 12:10 Movia: War Wagon, starring John Wayne and Kirk Douglas 13:40 Circus 14:10 The

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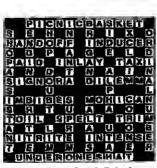
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- female (7)
- 11 Hold the emall child in inane fashion (7)
- 12 Traffic indicators (9) 14 View this as a theatrical
- 15 The cost of an attack (6)
- 17 Wearing, so may be ignored (7)
- 20 Rise arranged for a number in transport (6)
- 23 Cold remains—simple stuff (8) 25 Build up the head's standing (9)...
- (Sonnets) (7) 27 American woman the editor went along with (7) 28 For the athlete who'e a real
- swinger! (7) 29 Mark ingested a peculiar
- mixture (9)

- 2 Flashy and boozy airman?
- (7) equipment (7)
- 5 The most impoverished look to the West (6)
- 3 A fall in the German production of kitchen
- 4 He'll hit the drink with little hesitation! (8)
- 6 They will be suspended at Christmas (9)
- they cry Liberty." Milton 7 Get rid of pollution and get rich (5,2) 8 A French aim is to include
 - a tree variety not listed (9) 13 Dicky tarried, getting more behind-hand (?)
 - 15 A bar snack (9)
 - 16 The earthy forecaster! (9)
 - 18 Bearing with a dreadful
 - crisis caused by bloomers
 - 19 A friendly gathering or quite the opposite? (7) 21 In short cannot even find a
 - place to eat (7) 22 An uplifting perfume now being developed (7)
 - 24 Tottered as a result of wound (6)

SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Wart hog, 5 Eight, 8 Annul, 9 Sternum, 16 Expedient, 12 Owe, 13 Martyr, 14 Strict, 17 See, 18 Registrar, 20 Abandon, 21 Extra, 23 Ernie, 24 Adamant. DOWN: 1 Whale, 2 Run, 3 Holiday, 4 Gusher, 5 Exert, 6 Gondoller, 7 Tempest, 11 Porcelain, 13 Message. 15 Tessera, 16 Agenda, 18 Ridge, 19

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 7 Dazed state (6) 8 Mother or father
- 10 Varied (7) 11 Depart (5)
- 12 Inquisitive (4) 13 Couple (5)
- 17 Pretend (5) 18 Damage (4) 22 New Zealander (5)

23 Shake (7)

24 Mob (6) 25 Slender (6)

alian kanaling di sampangan penggangan kanalangan di sampangan menggan menggan sampan sampan sampan sampan sam Bilanggan penggan samp

- 1 Pupil (7) 2 Crop (7) 3 Frighten (5) 4 Wizard (7) 5 Commenced (5)
- 6 Speak (5) 9 Separate (9) 14 Readable (7)
- 15 Rubbish (7) 18 General pardon (7) 19 Chic (5) 20 Leisure interest
- 21 Answer (5)

TELEVISION

E CHANNEL 1

Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Moses in the Jewish Tradition 8:30 Literatura 8:55 Arithmetic 9:25

18:30 Legal Issues - courtroom magazine (In Arabic) 19:00 News HERREW PROGRAMS 19:30 Every Evening with Merav Michaeli 20:00 Mabai News 20:50 Live Lotto draw 20:55 Sitton - Israeli drama series 21:25 Referendum with Meni Pe'er 22:35 Roughnacks 23:30

News 00:00 Verse of the Day

E CHANNEL 2

13:00 Farewell Miss Freedom - Walt

DEHUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the
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02-776271.

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Shualal, Shualal Road, 810106; Oar
Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.
Tel Aviv: Hakirya, 19 Ibn-Gvirol, 6204850; Kupat Holim Ctalit, 7-9 Amsterdam,
523-2383. Wednesday: Ben-Yehuda, 142
Ben-Yehuda, 522-3535. Till midnight:
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Netanya: Hasharon Mali, Herzi, 617766.
Krayot area: Niv Hakrayot, 73 Ben-Gurion, Kriyat Motzin, 873-3477.
Haifa: Kiryal Ellezer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 851-1707.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Belt Merkazim, 8 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Phuah, 558472, 558407. Open 8 a.m. to midnight.

midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mai, 570488. Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bilar Holim (internal, obstet-nics, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgary, ortho-pedics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pedi-atrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery). letanva: Laniado. POLICE 102 FIRE

FIRST AID 101 Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911
(English) in most parts of the country. In addition:
Astriction 551333
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Kier Sava" 90/2222 Nehartya" 91/2339 Netartya" 60/4-44 Petah Tikva" 931111 Rehovor" 451/233 Rishon" 96/42/333 Safed 920/333 Tol Aviv" 54/60111 Tiberias" 79/24/4 Beersheda 27779 Beit Shemeth 523133 Dan Region' 5793333 Eilet" 332444 Heilet" 8512233 Heura : 8912/233 Signed 3/21/333 Tel Aviv : 5480111 Karmiel: 9985444 Tiberias: 792444 * Michie Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rember Hospital 04-8529205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran — Emotional First Aid, Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 6961113), Haifa 9672222/3, Bearsheba 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmial 9988410, Ktar Sava 7674555, Hadera 446789

9988410, Ktar Sava 7674555, Hadera 346789. Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 03-5461133 (also in Flussian), 07-376310, 08-550506 (also in Amteric), Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tal Aviv 2534819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 255558, Haifa 8660111, Eller 31977. Hadassan Medical Organization -Israel Cancer Association telephone support center 02-247676.

Fernity Ties 20:55 Mork and Mindy **EUROSPORT**

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

Ronn Lucas Show 14:35 Thunder Alley 15:00 Mull High 15:50 Movie: It the Shoe Fits, starring Rob Lowe and Jannifer Grey 17:30 French pro-grams 19:30 News headlines 19:35 The Good Life 20:00 Give Us a Clue

20:30 Mini-series: Black Fox (part 2) 22:00 News in English 22:25 Murphy

Brown 22:50 Movie: Coast to Coast,

starring Robert Black and Dyan

14:00 700 Club 14:55 Matinee Film

16:30 Moomins 16:55 Heathcliff 17:20 Inspector Gadget 17:45 Flying House 18:10 Father Dowling 19:10 Magnum P.I. 20:00 World News

Magnum - 1. 20:00 Wond News Tonight (Arabic) 20:30 CNN Haadline News 21:00 America's Funniest Home Videos 21:30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 22:20 Earth 2 23:10 700 Club 00:00 Special Program

CABLE

8:00 Falcon Crest 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless 10:30 Second Time Around

nestless 10:30 Second Time Around 10:55 Not Far From Home 11:25 Celeste 12:10 Neighbors 12:35 Perry Mason 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:05 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 14:50 Falcon Crest 15:45 ENG 18:40 Neighbors 17:10 Antonella

18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The

Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Celeste 20:50 Beverly Hills 90210 21:40 TV movie: One of the Girls - cornedy about a

one of the Gins - corredy about a new kid in high school who makes the mistake of falling in love with the class queen 23:10 Sapphire - Israeli drama series 23:20 Mad About You 23:45 Sisters 00:35 Counter Offensive 1:25 Knots Landing

10:30 Shattered Dreams (1990) (rpt) 12:00 Indiscretion of an American

Wife (1954) - Vittorio De Sica directs

this drama about a married American woman (Jennifer Jones) who meets

her lover in e Rome train station (60 mins.) 13:05 See the Stars – An upclose look at Manhattan's most eligible bachelor, Jerry Seinfeld 13:40 Giffriend From Hell (1989) - comic

horror movie (88 mins.) 15:10 Inside Moves (1980) – melodrama about a

boy who survives a suicide attempt end gains self esteem through his friendship with a group of misfit teens. With John Savage. (108 mins.) 17:05 Emest Goes To Camp

(1987) - comedy about dimwitted Emest who decides he wants to be a

camp counselor (88 mins.) 18:40
Amok (1992, French) - drama about
a mamed woman who becomes
pregnant while her husband is in
Europe. (83 mins.) 20:00 What's
New at the Movies 20:15 Key

Position - action series 21:00 Cobra (1986) - bloody action thriller staming Sylvester Stallone as an unconven-

tional cop protecting Birgit Nilsson (83 mins.) 22:30 The Hidden (1987)

- futuristic thriller (93 mins.) 00:05 Godfather III (1990) (rpt)

6:30 Carloons 8:05 Alvin and the

Chipmunks 8:30 Detective Boogle 9:00 Small University 9:05 Once Upon e time 9:40 Heart 10:15 Family Ties 10:45 Black Stallion 11:05 Ocean Girl 11:40 Loony Toons 12:00

Saved By the Bell 12:30 Hugo 13:00

Surprise Garden 13:35 Cartoon 14:00 Cartoon 14:35 Little House on

the Prairie 15:10 Heart 15:45 The Ball Returns to Cooper 16:15 Lois

and Clark 17:15 Looper Tunes 17:30 Saved by the Bell 18:00 Hugo 18:35 Power Rangers 19:00 Alvin and the Chipmunks 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Don Juan de Marco
5 * Dance With a Stranger 6:45 * Las
Portes de la Nuit 7:45 * TAU Student
Films 8:30 G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mall
(Malha) = 788448 Virtuosity 4:30, 7:15,
10:15 * Heat 4:15, 7, 9:15 * Clucless
4:45, 7:15 * Something to Talk About
8:45 * Fair Game®American
President®Family on Holiday®Sudden
Death 4:45, 7:15 9:45 * Show Girls

President@Family on Holiday@Sudden
Death 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Show Girls
4:30, 7, 9:45 JERUSALEM THEATER
A Man of No Importance 7 * Georgia
9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7** 792799 Credit
Card Reservations** 794477 RavMechar Building, 19 He'oman SL, Talpiot
Seven 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Crossing
Guard@Blua in the Face@The Usual
Suspects@Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30,
9:45 * Money Train 5, 7:30, 9:45 *
Waiting to Exhale 9:45 * Father of the
Bride II 5, 7:30
TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE Eat, Drink, Man,

TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE Eat, Drink, Man,
Woman 5, 7:30, 10 * Intolerance 7 *
Good Morning Babylonia 9:30 DIZENGOFF A Man of No Importance 11 a.m.,

Good Moming Babylonia 9:30 DIZEN-GOFF A Man of No Importance 11 a.m., 1.3, 5, 7:45, 10 x Priest 11 a.m. x Fresh 3 x Lisbon Story 1, 5, 7:45, 10 x Show Girls 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 DRIVE IN Desperado 10 x Sex Film midnight GAN HA'IR v 5279215 Priscilla 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 GAT The Crossing Guard 5, 7:30, e.45 GORDON The Unbelievable Truth e x Trust a x Amateur 8 HAKOLNOA Carrington 2, 5, 7:30, 10 x Clueless 2, 5, 7:30, 10 LEV 1-4 v 5288288 White Man's Burden 12:15, 2:15, 5, 8, 10 x Georgia 12, 2, 7:45 x Farinelli 12, 7:30, 9:45 x Denise Cells Up 7:45, 10, G.G. PE'ER Heat 4:15, 7, 9:30 x Home for the Holidays 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 x Underground 8:30, 9:30 x American President 5, 7:30, 10 x Passovar Fever 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-CHENs 5282288 Dizengoff Center Money Train 5, 7:30, 9:45 x Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 x The Usual Suspects 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 x Desperado 5, 7:30 RAV-OR 1-5 x 5102674 Opera House Strockell postinos 1:20 f 7:30 9:45 x Seven 6:45 to the Eace 5 7:30, 9:45 x Seven 9:45 x Se

RAV-OR 1-5 = 5102674 Opera House Smoke@il PostIno@Unstrung Heroes@Blue in the Face 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Jefferson in Paris 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Waiting to Exhale 5, 7:15, 9:45 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 = 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi SI. Something to Talk About@Haunled Soul@Golden Eya 7:15, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV # 5281181 65 Pinsker SI. Sudden Death@Fatr Game 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM = 6981297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard Chundding Express 5, 8, 10

INEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 325755 The

Bridges of Medison County 6:15 & Smoke 7:15, 9:15 & Haunted Soul 7 ATZMON 1-5 = 673003 Felr

Chungking Express 5, 8, 10 HAJFA

CHILDREN (6)

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

Cannon 23:15 Film

MIDDLE EAST TV

22:00 Without You I'm Nothing (1990) - Sandra Bernhard gives her unique taka on American pop culture.
Directed by John Boskovich. (85 mins.) 23:30 India Song (1975) - Iova slory from the author/director of The Lover set in India during tha 1930s

■ DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University: History 12:00 China Unleashing 13:00 Nice Guys Finish Last 14:00 Open University 16:00 China Unleashing 18:00 Open University 20:00 American University 20:00 American Supermarket 20:30 Archeology 21:00 Equinox 9 22:00 Air Combat 22:45 American Supermarket 23:15 Archeology 23:45 Open University

TV 3 (33)

17:00 Cartoons 17:30 Haram Alek 18:00 From Day to Day – chat show 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 International magazine on the arts 20:00 Mabat News 20:45
Outstanding Creations 21:00 Blah
Blah - joint radio and TV chal show
20:00 Showcase 22:30 Cinema
magazine 00:00 Closedown

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Hey Dad 18:00 Reading enrichment 17:00 At the Bottom of the Sea with Delphi 17:30 Time Out 18:00 Jews of North Africa in the Colonial Period 18:30 On Second Thoughts – health and nutrition 19:00 Family Album 19:30 Beginnings – new series on veteran immigrants 20:00 A New Evening (with Russian subtitles) 20:30 Preparation for Bagrut 21:00 Female Perspective – weekly magazine hosted by Orli Yaniv 21:30American Cinema 22:30Spirited Talks Cinema 22:30Spirited Talks

■ SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 S:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00
NBC News 7:30 ITN World News
8:00 Today; international Magazine
10:00 Super Shop 11:00 European
Money Wheel 15:30 The Squawk
Box 17:00 US Money Wheel 18:30
FT Business Tonight 19:00 ITN News
19:30 Ushuaia 20:30 The Selina
19:30 Ushuaia 20:30 The Selina Scott Show 21:30 Profiles 22:00 Europa 2000 22:30 ITN News 23:00 Supersport 00:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 1:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien STAR PLUS

6:00 Beverly Hillbillies 6:30 Yan Can Cook 7:00 For Your Entertainment
7:30 Gabrielle 8:30 Santa Barbara
9:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
10:00 Oprah Winfrey 11:00
Remington Steele 12:00 Yan Can Cook 12:30 El TV 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:30 Sma Wonder 14:00 Black Stallion 14:30 Batman 15:00 Home and Away 15:30 Entertainment Tonight 16:00 M'A'S'H 16:30 Bodyline 17:30 The Extraordinary 18:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 19:00 Santa Barbara 20:00 Hard Copy 20:30 Baywatch 21:30 Andros Targets 22:30 Entertainment Tonight 23:00 Oprah Winfrey 00:00 Hard Copy 00:30 Home and Away 1:00 The Sullivans

E CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies In motion 7:30 Basic Training 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 National leagua basketball: Holon vs. Hapoel Jerusalem 18:30 Premier league soccer - England 19:30 Women's soccer 21:00 Israeli soccer - National League 22:00 Spanish league soccer 23:00 College basketball 00:00 NBA basketball

9:30 Eurogolf Magazine 10:30 Alpine Ski 12:00 Motorsports Magazine 13:30 Alpine Ski 14:45 Cross-Country Skiing 15:15 Tannis 16:15 Soccer - European 17:15 Alpine Ski 18:00 Bobsled 19:30 Auto recing 20:00 Boxing 21:00 Mountain Bike Recing 22:00 Trail 23:00 Alpine Sking 01:00 Professional wrestling 02:00 Alpina Ski

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Cricket - World Cup Live 14:00 Golf 15:00 Futbol Mundial 15:30 Rugby 17:00 Cricket 18:30 Cricket World Cup 19:30 Show Jumping 20:30 Golf 21:30 Motorcycle Recing 22:30 Cricket - World Cup 23:30 International Sport's Magazina 00:30 Asian soccer 01:30 Futbol Mundial

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:00 BBC Newsday 6:05 Penorama 10:15 Penorama 11:30 Tomorrow's World Panorama 11:30 I omorrow's wond
14:16 The Money Programme 15:15
World Business Report 18:30 The
Andrew Neil Show 16:30 Asian and
Pacific news 16:25 Tour Magazine
17:15 Panorama 18:30 Food and
Drink 19:30 Film '96 22:05
Panorama 23:30 The Clothes Show
00:00 8BC World News and
Rusiness Report **Business Report**

CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day 6:no World News 6:30 Inside Politics 8:30 Moneyline 9:30 World Report 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:30 CNN Newsroom 12:30 World Report 13:00 Business Day 14:00 Business Asia 14:30 World Sport 15:00 Asia Asia 14:30 Word Sport 15:00 Asia News 15:30 Business Asia 16:00 Larry King Live 17:30 World Sport 18:30 8usiness Asia 21:00 World Business Today 21:30 World News 22:00 Larry King Live 00:00 World Business Today 00:30 World Sport

RADIO

W VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Moming Concart 9:05 Haydn; String quartet in D op 20/4 (Mosaic Ct); W.F. Bach; Cantata for soloists, choir, orch end basso continuo; Mozart: Symphony no 41 "Jupiter" (Amsterdam Baroque/Koopman); Beethoven; Piano trio in E flat op 1/1 (Castle Trio); Poulenc; 7 Choral Songs; Shostakovich: Violin concerto no 1 12:00 Light Classical—Weber/Bertioz: Invitation to the Dance (Philharmonia/Karejan); Gounod, Donizetti, Flotow 20:05 Evening Sounds 20:30 From Our Concert Halls – Israel Sinlonietta Beersheba, cond. Uri Mayer. Ben-Zion Orgad: Filigrans No. 5. Concertante for Chamber Orch; Bruch: Violin concerto in G minor (Guy Braunstein); R. Strauss: Le bourgeois gentilhomme suite 23:00A Musical Journey

CINEMA

Guard 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Money Train 4:45, 7, 8:15 * Father of the Bride II 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 = 246553 Dangerous Minds 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Seven 4:30, 7, 9:15 * The Usual Suspects 9:15 * Father of the Bride II 4:45, 7 AFULA RAV CHEN

RAV CHEN
The Crossing Guard 7, 9:30 * Show
Girts 9:30 * II Postino 7, 9:30 * Father
of the Bride II 7
ARAD
STAR * 950904 Seven 7, 9:30 *
Haunted Soul 7:15 * Suddan Death
7:15, 9:30 * The Usual Suspects 8:30
ASHDOD
G.G. CH. Moore Traine Studgen Death

ASHDOD G.G. GJL Money Train®Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 * Seven 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Fair Game 5, 7:30 * American President 10 G.G. ORI 1-3# 711223 Home for the # Show Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10

ASHKELON
G.G. Gil. American President@Fair

Compact Studies - Specific Forces - Specific Fo

Game-Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 *
Show Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10 RAV CHEN =
711223 II Postino-White Man's
Burden-Money Train 5, 7:30, 9:45 *
Seven 9:45 * Father of the Bride II 5,

Seven 9:45 * Father of the Bride # 5, 7:30

BAT YAM

RAV CHEN = 5531077 Money
Train®Father of the Bride # 5, 7:30, 9:45
* Show Girls®Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 *
Dengerous Minds 5, 7:15, 9:45 * Heat
9:30, 9:15

BEERSHEBA

G.G. Gil. Heat 4:15, 7,9:30 * Sudden
Denth 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Show Girls
4:30, 7, 9:45 * RAV-NEGEV 1-4 =
235278 Money Train®Dangerous Minds
5, 7:30, 9:45 * The Usual Suspects 9:45
* Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Father of the
Bride # 5, 7:30

DIMONA
HECHAL HATARBAUT Fair Game 6

EILAT

KOLNOA EILAT Show Girls 7:30, 10

KOLNOA EILAT Show Girls 7:30, 10 * Money Train 7:30, 10 * Seven 7:30,

* Money Train 7:30, 10 * Seven 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV 1-4 Dangerous Minds®White
Man's Burden 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 * Show
Girls 7:15, 9:45 * Denite Cells Up 5 *
Money Train 5, 7:15, 9:15
HERZLIYA
COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANOARIN)

6902658 If Posting®The Usual
Suspects 6, 9, 10 STAR® 569068
Virtuosity 8:45 * Heat 6:45, 7:30, 9:45 *
Show Girls 9:45 * American President Show Girls 9:45 * American President 7:30 * 7:30, 9:45 DANIEL HOTEL Home for the Holidays 7:30, 9:45 KARMIEL

Home for the Holidays 7:30, 9:45
KARMIEL
CINEMA 1-3 = 887277 Sudden
Death-Money Train-American
President 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. Gil. Heet 4:15,7, 9:30 * Vituosity
4:30, 7:30, 10:15 * Sudden Death 5, 7:30,
10 * Show Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10 *
American President 10 * Father of the
Game 5, 7:30 * Dangerous
Minds-Home for the Holidays 5, 7:30, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. KIRYON 1-9 = 779166 8how
Girls-Fair Game-Sudden Death 4:45,
7, 9:30 * An Indian in the Cupboard
4:45 * American President-Virtuosity
4:45, 7, 9:30 * Santa Clause 4:45 * A
Gooty Movie 4:45 * Jade 7, 9:30 * Heat
7, 9:15
KIRYAT SHEHLOMA ATZMON 1-5 * 673003 Felr Game Lisde Sudden Death 4:30, 7, 9:15 * Show Girls 4:30, 7, 9:15 * Heat 6:15, 8:15 CINEMA CAFE MORIAH * 242477 Senza Pelle 7:30, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE Blade Runner 7 * Close Encounters of the Third Kind 9:30 ORLY Walting to Exhale 7, 9:15 PANORAMA 1-3 * 382020 American President Home for the Holidays 4:30, 7, 9:30 * Something to Talk About 4:30, 7 * White Men's Burden 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 * 674311] The Crossing Guarde Morey Train 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 * 8416899/8 Seven 4:30, 7, 9:15 * White Man's Burden The Usual Suspects 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Dangerous Minds 4:45, 7,9:15 * The Crossing

7, 9:15 KIRYAT SHEMONA G.G. GIL Dangerous Minds 4:30, 7. 9:30 * Virtuesity 4:30, 7, 9:30 * Show Girls 4:30, 7, 9:30

LOD
STAR Sudden Death 7:15, 9:45 *
Desperado 7:16, 9:45 * The Usual
Suspect 7:15, 9:45 * The Invisible Kid 5
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL Fair Game@Nome for the
H o I I d a y e @ D a n g e r o u a
Minds@Virtuosity@Sudden Death 4:45,
7, 9:30 * Show Girts@Seven 4:30, 7, 9:45
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 * 404729 Heat 4:15, 7,
9:30 * Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 *
Show Girts 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Virtuosity
4:30, 7:30, 10:15

4:30, 7:30, 10:15 NETANYA G.G. GIL 1-5 = 628452 Heat 4:15, 7, G.G. Gil. 1-5 = 628452 Heat 4:15, 7, 9:30 * Virtuosity 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 * American President 10 * Fair Game 5, 7:30 * Show Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN The Crossing Guard 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Seven 9:45 * Money Train@Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 8:45 * 8 Postino 5, 7:30 OR AKIVA
RAV CHEN Fair Game@Money Train@American President 7, 9:30
OR YEHUDA
G.G. Gil. Virtuosity@Smoke 5, 7:30, 10 * Show Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Seven 4:45, 7:15, 10

4:45, 7:15, 10
PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL Heat 4:15, 7, 9:30 *
Virtuosity 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 * Bhow
Girls 4:30, 7:15, 10 G.G. RAM 1-3 =

9340818 American President®Dangerous Minds®Sudden Deeth 5, 7:30, 10 RA'ANANA PARK Money Train 7:15, 10:15 * Heat 7, 9:30 * Blus in the Fecs 8:30 * Seven 7:45, 10:15 * Virtuosity 3 * Show Girls 10:15 * Desperado 5, 10:15 * Clueless 5 * Father of the Bride II 5 * Oangerous Minds 5 * An Indian In the Cupboard 5 * Virtuosity 8 RAMAT GAN

9340818

Cupboard 5 * Virtuosity 8

RAMAT GAN

RAV-GAN 1-4 # 6197121 The

Crossing Guard 5, 7:30, 9:45 *

Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 8:45 * The

Ilsual Suspects 9:45 * Father of the

Bride II 5, 7:30 * Seven 4:45, 7:15,

9:45 RAV-OASIS 1-3 # 6730667 Heat

8:15, 9:30 * Money Train 5, 7:30, 9:45 *

Bhow Girls 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

REHOVOT

CHEN 1-4 # 362864 Heat 7, 9:30 *

The Bridges of Madison County 7:15 *

Show Girls 6:45 * Smoke 7:15, 9:45

RISHON LEZION

GAL 1-5 # 9619669 Show Girls 4:30,

7:15, 10 * Sudden

Death-Wirtuosity-American President

5, 7:30, 10 * Seven 5, 7:30, 10 HAZA
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EIGHT insurance companies will be indicted for price-fixing and other illegal activities in restraint of trade, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair announced yes-

The eight are Phoenix, Migdal, Cial, Hamagen, Ayalon, Menorah, Zion, and Sahar. Also to be indicted are 15 of the companies' senior managers at the time of the alleged crimes and the Association of Insurance

According to the draft indictment, the eight companies con-spired in 1991 and 1992 to fix premiums and other price components, such as special discounts, as well as agents' fees. They also acted in concert to eliminate coverage of certain items and increase insurees' co-payments. Finally, they divided up the market between them.

These are all violations of the 1988 Business Restrictions Law, and carry a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

PFLP: Malki is no longer our man

LAMIA LAHOUD

THE spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Damascus announced on radio Monte Carlo Sunday that local PFLP spokesman Riad Malki no longer represents the party, since he expresses views which do not reflect its position.

Malki, a university professor from Ramallah, said the PFLP did not inform him and he only learned about the decision through the media.

He said the decision was a punishment for his statements criticizing the party's decision to boycott the Palestinian elections and his call for more democracy within the party.

Malki said many of local PFLP activists and some of its leaders abroad favored participation in the elections. Many PFLP activists voted in the election, especially in Gaza, despite the boycott call, he

He said many local activists are based leadership keeps ignoring their positions, although the PFLP decided in 1994 that the main emphasis should be placed on the territories and more decisionmaking powers should be transferred to the local leadership.

Malki denies having misrepresented the party's position. He said the PFLP leadership falsely claims be leaked to the media reports that party leader George Habash will return, and accuses him of saying that the return of the PFLP members is linked to the convening of the Palestine National Council to amend the

Palestinian Covenant. Malki has said that he does not believe that Habash will return.



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POST

EVELYN GORDON

The companies committed these illegal acts in four sectors, the draft indictment says: car insur-ance, homeowners' insurance, corporate insurance, and insur-

ance for mechanical equipment.
According to the indictment, the cartel arrangement was implemented in a number of ways, such as special contracts with secondary insurers to enforce uni-form prices and coordinating rates before submitting requests for approval to the supervisor of

Before the indictment is filed in court, however, the suspects will have a chance to try to change Ben-Yair's mind. He has written to all of the accused to invite them to submit their arguments against the indictment in writing, and officially they have a month to do so. In practice, however, the process will probably take longer, since the companies will first need to examine the evidence against them. The 15 executives named in the

draft indictment, according to their titles at the time the alleged crimes were committed, are Itamar Borovich, managing director of Phoenix; Uzi Levy, managing director of Migdal; Gidon Rosolio, deputy managing director of Migdal; Rimon Ben-Shaul, managing director of Clal; Ya'acov Kihel, deputy managing director of Clal; Meir Shani, managing director of Clal; Meir Shani, managing director of Hamagen. aging director of Hamagen; Amichai Harari, head of Hamagen's elementary insurance division: Levy Rahmani, manag-ing director of Ayalon; Noga Rahmani, deputy managing direc-tor of Ayalon: Shabtai Angel, managing director of Menorah; Ari Kalman, head of Menorah's general insurance division; Avraham Taiber, managing director of Zion; Uri Taiber, head of Zion's general insurance division; Menachem Harpaz, managing director of Sahar, and Eli Azuvel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Agency to weigh loan payback exemptions
The Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, which convened
yesterday in Jerusalem, has agreed to set up a special committee to look into the possibility of exemptions for needy immigrants who have to relum absorption loans.

The decision came after a vigil held outside the Agency's buildings yesterday in Jerusalem by some 100 members of the Zionist Forum. They were joined by demonstrators on behalf of the Imcha (Single Parents) and Kav Yashir (Single immigrants) groups.

Piamenta to get Israel Prize

The Israel Prize in Middle Eastern Studies will be awarded this year to retired Hebrew University Prof. Moshe Piamenta Minister of the Arts Shulamit Aloni announced yesterday. She cited Piamenta's contributions in research on modern Arabic language, and his work on the use of Arabic among the Jewish population in Israel.

Parolee sentenced for crippling girlfriend Ronen Attias, 23, of Haifa, a prisoner on parole who shot and permanently paralyzed his girlfriend after his falher said she was dressed immodestly, was sentenced to seven years and two months in jail yesterday.

Netanya man gets 10 years for rape, sodomy Michael Hundhashvilli, 35, of Netanya was sentenced vesterday to 10 years in prison and given a two-year suspended sentence for raping and sodomizing a 15-year-old girl for whom he promised to find work.

Cabbie robbed at knifepoint A Jerusalem cabbie was robbed at knifepoint by two passengers yesterday. The two asked to be taken to Mishor Adumim. On the way, one pulled a knife, then ordered the cabbie to drive along the Allon Highway in the Jordan Valle There, they attacked him, stole his money, and fled. The cabbie was lightly injured.

Man gets five years for raping daughter A 78-year-old Jerusalem man was sentenced yesterday to five years in prison after confessing In Jerusalem District Court to raping his daughter, now 15, from the time she was in fourth grade until she was 14.

Levinger turned back at prison due to clerical error

HERB KEINON

AUTHORITIES at Ayalon Prison in Ramle turned away Rahhi Moshe Levinger last night because he did not have the proper orders from the court, after he showed up to begin serving a seven-month sentence for rioting and disturbing the peace in Hehron four years ago.

"I said I was going to break in. hus was told this would not be advisable," Levinger said on his way back from the prison to Hehron, where he said he will await further instructions.

Earlier in the day Levinger. with his family and supporters, went to the Western Wall for "farewell prayers."

Levinger's son, Malachi said

that sending his father to jail is absurd: "Arabs who attack and almost kill Jews are let off, while my father, who shot in the air in self-defense, is sent to prison. It is ridiculous."

Miriam Levinger, the rabbi's wife, is scheduled to begin serving a three month sentence in 45 days for attacking police and impeding their work in a 1994 incident in Hehron.

The Hebron settlement committee issued a statement saying, The government is releasing thousands of terrorists ... Those who are merciful to the cruel. will eventually be cruel to the merciful. But in the end. the truth will win out."



Peacetime.' Shetreet outlined preparations for the wave of Christian tourists expected here to mark

Deplorable conditions at five police lock-ups **EVELYN GORDON**

CONDITIONS in police lock-ups are inhumane, and the Internal Security Ministry is not doing enough to improve the situation, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said yesterday in a report submitted to Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

The report was compiled after ACRI staffers examined five lock-ups, in Petah Tikva, Rehovot, Kfar Saba, Ramle and Lod. The organization found that all five suffered from severe overcrowding, filth, and other physical problems. It also found that it was difficult for prisoners to meet with their families or attorneys. Following is a summary of the findings:

Petah Tikva: 70% of the prisoners should have been in a prison rather than a lock-up. Six prisoners were sleeping in a 3 sq.m. cell. without even space to walk between the beds. There was no ventilation in the cells, which were stifling. In the new wing, prisoners were not allowed out for exercise at all. Prisoners whom the police feared might try to commit suicide were kept three to pecial I sq.m. cell, where the duty officer could keep an eye on them. The cell had no sink or toilet, and two prisoners had to sit on

a bench while the third slept on a mattress underneath.

Rehovot: 95% of the prisoners should have been in prison rather than a lock-up. Prisoners complained of rats and cockroaches in the cells. The shower had no cold water, and its walls were black with mold. Arabs from the territories charged with being in Israel illegally were kept in the courtyard for lack of space indoors. Kfar Sava: Toilets were not

properly walled off from the rest of the cell. There were no electricity outlets or garbage pails. Ventilation was poor.

Ramle: Ventilation was so poor that prisoners said they would deliberately injure themselves in the summer to escape the stifling heat of the cells by being sent to the hospital. Prisoners slept on blankets on the floors, because there were not enough mattresses. A police officer told ACRI that "the only difference between an Israeli prisoner and one in Thailand is the [lack of a] shackle

Lod: One of the cells had been without light for 15 days according to the prisoners, because a burnt-out lightbulb was not replaced. The police charged that the prisoners had broken the bulh on purpose. There had been no hot water for a week because of a broken boiler. Prisoners complained of blockages in the toilets which caused flooding in the

In response to ACRI's findings, several of the police officers responsible said they had made changes. In Ramle, for instance, the police said more mattresses were procured, and in Lod, ACRI was told the boiler and toilets were being repaired. In Petah Tikva, the police said they reno-vated the cells and put in ventilation, and began taking all the prisoners out for daily exercise. The police there said they were also trying to get a cell with a closedcircuit camera for suicidal prisoners, to replace the current arrange-

However, ACRI said, not enough is being dode.

The inhumane conditions which prisoners face every day in these lock-ups cry out to heaven part of the ministry] to improve the situation," the association said

Ramon set to approve building of Jerusalem's Har Homa

INTERIOR Minister Haim Ramon yesterday announced he would approve the building of 6,500 housing units in the planned new Har Homa neighborhood in

The plans were approved in the district planning and construction committee several months ago and were passed on to Ramon for approval.

During a tour of the city with Mayor Ehud Olmert. Ramon said that he thinks the Palestinians will not oppose the construction because the land expropriated for

it was largely Jewish-owned. The plan stirred anger among Jerusalem Arabs. The area where the neighborhood is to be built is on the border between Jerusalem and Bethlehem and between three Arab villages. It had previously been classified a "green area."

Jerusalem Arabs claimed that if the area was to be used for huild-

housing. Faisal Husseini said Palestinians would demonstrate at the site and try to prevent the constructions, as they did at Givat Hadagan near Efrat.

The future of a major section of the land slated for the construc-

tion is currently being discussed in the High Court of Justice, after several petitions were filed against the proposed construction.

AROUND THE WORLD



Winning cards

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In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ace of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and queen

'No room for Jerusalem visitors in year 2000'

HAIM SHAPIRO

THERE will be no room at the inn, no room on the buses and no room at the tourist sites by the year: 2000, when millions of Christian visitors are expected to come mark the end of the second millenminm of Christianity, according to Tourism Ministry Director-General Eli Gonen.

Gonen predicted that Israel would become a tourism bottleneck, perhaps even before 2000. He said that within a few years there will not be enough hotel rooms, the roads will be jammed and facilities at Ben-Gurion Airport will be inadequate to handie the crowds.

Gonen was speaking at a gather-ing of the Economic Forum panel on Jerusalem as a Tourist Center in Peacetime.

Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, noted that crowding has already curtailed some sites. Passengers from cruise ships visiting Jerusalem no longer enter the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher because they do not have the time to wait. he pointed out. Often, he added, the main consideration for where a tour bus stops is whether the site has good toilets.

Meanwhile, even if there are enough hotel rooms, not everyone who wants to visit may be able to afford them. Ministry Deputy Director-General Shabtai Shai said that the main thrust for hotel building for the future would be in fourand five-star hotels, with some three-star establishments and virtually no building of oneor two-star facilities.

"We are going for the money," Shai said, noting that Israel's tourism costs are far higher than other destinations such as Turkey or Spain, and therefore the country had to attract tourists who could afford to spend more:

Basketball players fail lie-detector tests

SOME local haskerball professionals have failed voluntary lie-detector tests they initiated regarding betting on and throwing games that they were involved

Kohi Rabin, who runs a private company in Tel Aviv that administers such tests, said a few players were found lying when they answered no to the question: "Have you bet on a game or been involved in

throwing one you were involved in?" He added that

the same players had asked that the test results be destroyed, and he complied. Rahin confirmed an Army Radio report that said that players, coaches and team officials are undergoing lie-detector tests in the offices of private companies to check how they would perform if summoned

hy police to take such a test regarding gambling.

The requests to undergo the tests are part of what is known as "testing," a technical term referring to an attempt hy individuals to see if they could "fool" the polygraph machine. Police Investigations Chief Cmdr. Yossi Levy said he knew of the matter, and would be contacting the private firms involved in the

The Israel Basketball Association decided, after the initial reports on alleged gambling on basketball-games was revealed on IDF Radio several months ago, that players asked by police or private firms to take a polygraph test would be required to do so.

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_by Hershel Shanks

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